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AFGHANISTAN IN 2007

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A Survey of the Afghan People

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About The Asia Foundation

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Preface

Afghanistan is in the midst of sea changes. Reconstruction efforts are underway in different parts of the country. Numerous organizations are working at the center, in regions and provinces and at local levels to help implement programs designed to rebuild the country. Surveys are a good tool to help gauge public opinion and sentiments in a country that is undergoing rapid changes. In a context where the state has not been able to undertake a census for almost three decades and where there are large gaps in knowledge regarding the demographic characteristics of its populations, a scientifically selected sample-survey could simultaneously be a proxy census.

The Asia Foundation (the Foundation) has, to date, conducted three nationwide surveys in Afghanistan - first in 2004, then in 2006 and now in 2007. The surveys have been conducted at a time when it has become important to have an accurate and longterm barometer of public opinion across Afghanistan.

The first opinion survey undertaken by the Foundation in Afghanistan - the 2004 survey- was conducted primarily to assess the knowledge and attitude of the electorate regarding the country's first national elections (viz. Presidential elections) held in October 2004. The objective then was to equip the Foundation and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) with accurate data to help them plan, design and implement voter education messages and campaigns.

The 2004 survey covered 804 respondents from across 29 provinces from the then existing 32 provinces in the country. The data showed that the situation was not homogeneous and that there were marked differences in public opinion concerning governmental support, infrastructure development, security, and economic well-being across the country. This led to the idea of a larger survey that would not only cover the entire country but also provide enough data to look at how opinions varied across regions and provinces. Annual surveys were then planned for an initial period of three consecutive years. The intention was to collect comprehensive information on various issues and to track changes over the period.

The survey conducted in 2006 was the first of these large annual surveys. It was conducted among 6226 respondents from 32 of the 34 provinces in the country. The provinces of Uruzgan and Zabul accounting for 2.3 percent of the country's population were left out due to security risk for the field teams. The 2006 survey provided significant policy relevant data and established a baseline for measuring public perceptions on subjects such as democratic governance and values, role of political parties, civil responsibilities and rights, the place of religion in the evolving polity, women's rights and other issues. This survey was for the first time able to document how the public assesses the performance of the elected government.

The 2006 survey report made possible a detailed investigation of the public's opinion on a range of issues. This was because of the large number of respondents covered. Analysis was done comparing responses from the various regions and also between some of the major provinces. In 2007 the Foundation also released a follow-up version to the main survey report which contained papers by experts who examined the survey in greater and comparative detail. This companion volume which is titled *'State Building, Political Progress, and Human Security in Afghanistan'* is based on the data from the 2006 survey and discusses how the Afghans view their personal situation, their perceptions of government, the policy priorities, and the role of women in Afghan society.

The two surveys have helped to chart a trend line on changing views of the people of Afghanistan over the years. It has also made possible a pre and a post election picture of the country. The surveys have combined questions that have arisen about Afghanistan in the minds of policy makers, social researchers, and donor organizations with tried and tested questions used in other countries by surveys such as the East and South Asia Barometers and Latin Population Survey. It has also built on other surveys the Foundation conducted in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Indonesia. Some of the questions have been revised every year taking into cognizance changing ground realities while a number of core questions have been retained so as to ensure comparability over the years. Feedback received from each of the surveys has been used to fine tune the survey instruments further.

The survey questionnaire was first revised in-house and then, as has been the practice in the earlier years, sent to experts, stakeholders and donors for review and suggestions. The 2007 survey questionnaire was revised with inputs from: U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Afghan Center for Socio-economic and Opinion Research (ACSOR), Mr. Sudhindra Sharma and Pawan Sen of Interdisciplinary Analysts (IDA), Dr. Ali Wardak of Center for Policy and Human Development (CPHD), Professor Russ Dalton and Professor Sanjay Ruparelia. There were questions added this year on sub-national governance issues. Some questions regarding the last elections were removed. The survey questionnaire, with percentages of all responses by question, can be found in Appendix 3. Some responses were rephrased wherever it was felt that clearer and more actionable answers could be derived. There were also some changes brought about in the sampling this year to increase the spread of the interviews to a larger area. This was done to thwart any cases of homogeneity in responses due to closely clustered samples.

The 2007 survey was able to interview 6263 people from all the 34 provinces in the country (see Appendix 1). Several changes had taken place in the political, economic and security situation in the country in the past one year. The survey came at a time, halfway through the term of the President, in a year when the anti-government forces were expected to mobilize in large numbers and the country was coming off a record year in poppy cultivation, which presented us with a special opportunity to gauge public opinion at a crucial juncture in Afghanistan's history[1]. The poll aims at providing

[1] The actual fieldwork was undertaken between 11 and 22 June 2007.

insight into how changes in the country have altered the opinions and perceptions of the Afghan people. The 2007 survey captures the opinions of the Afghan electorate - in sequential order - on the general mood of the people, security, development and economy, local government, judicial system, democracy and democratic values, women's issues and the media. Full details on the methodology of the survey are available in Appendix 2 of this report.

This report not only gives a picture of the country at a point in time but also helps assess the direction in which the country is moving in the post-Taliban era.

Besides making public opinion known, these surveys are helping build research capacity in the country. The survey was conducted using the services of a trained team of over 400 Afghan interviewers from across the country in the most trying circumstances. ACSOR, the Foundation's field partner, has used this opportunity to build a team in the country with the capacity to undertake large, diverse and sensitive surveys. Several innovative methods and changes in the commonly-practiced research techniques have made this survey possible. The team has also undergone multiple training sessions that has helped sharpen their skills in random house-to-house survey techniques. In the 2007 survey, training sessions were held for the supervisors and interviewers in Kabul as well as the zonal centers in Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kandahar and Jalalabad. The trainings covered questionnaire briefings, learning and survey highlights from the past, mock interview sessions and case scenarios.

The other highlight of the 2007 survey is mutually benefiting partnerships with other Afghan organisations. The primary idea of these partnerships has been to develop a capacity in-country for work on social research, both in conducting the survey and in writing up reports. Cooperation for Peace and Unity (CPAU) has been working in Afghanistan for the last decade in the area of promotion of knowledge and awareness of peace, social justice and human rights. CPAU is working on a regional analysis of the 2007 survey findings, the results of which will be published in a separate volume. They are supported by IDA, a research organization based in Kathmandu supported over the years by The Asia Foundation in Nepal. The Foundation has also partnered with the National Centre for Policy Research (NCPR) which is a research body affiliated with Kabul University. NCPR has been conducting classes for selected university students on survey research. The partnership has linked NCPR with ACSOR whereby they send selected students to get trained on ongoing survey projects. Overall, the aim is to leave Afghan organisations with a lasting capacity to leverage available skills to conduct public opinion surveys and be able to disseminate and use the results in a productive manner.

The Asia Foundation
Kabul, Afghanistan
September 2007

1 Executive Summary

1.1 Key Findings

- The mood of the country continues to be optimistic with 42 percent respondents saying that things are moving in the right direction. While 24 percent think that the country is moving in the wrong direction, 25 percent have mixed feelings. In 2006, some 44 percent of the respondents said things were moving in the right direction, 21 percent said they were moving in the wrong direction and another 29 percent had mixed feelings.

- Reconstruction was cited as the single biggest reason for the country going in the right direction (39%), followed by good security (34%). Those who think the country is not moving in the right direction overwhelmingly cited insecurity (48%) followed by different aspects of bad governance and economy. In 2006, good security was cited as the biggest reason mentioned for the country going in the right direction (31%), followed by peace (29%) and disarmament (26%).

- The largest problems facing Afghanistan were identified as insecurity, unemployment, poor economy and corruption in that order, with 32 percent citing security issues as the major problem. In 2006, the major national-level problems were poor economy, uncertain security situation, slow pace of reconstruction - development, and unemployment.

- At the local level, the biggest problems identified were electricity, unemployment, water and education in that order, each cited by between 10-15 percent of the respondents. In 2006, the biggest local-level problems were identified as unemployment (34%), electricity (25%), water (18%) and poverty (18%), followed by poor economy (17%) and corruption (8%).

- Seventy-nine percent of the people felt that the government did not care what people thought while another 69 percent felt it was not acceptable to talk negatively about the government in public.

- Eighty percent felt the government was doing a good job, but most of the credit in this regard went to the education and health sectors, while the government was seen to be performing below par in employment generation, economic revival and fighting corruption.

- Perceptions towards different institutions varied widely. There was a great deal or fair amount of confidence in institutions such as the Afghan National Police and Afghan National Army from more than 80 percent of the people, followed by electronic media, Shuras and Jirgas, provincial councils, international NGOs and Community Development Councils (CDCs). But, less than half of the respondents had confidence in the government's justice system, political parties and local militias.

- Only 14 percent had approached a state court or village/neighborhood-based Shura/Jirga to settle their disputes in the last two years. Of the disputes around half were related to land.

- Perception of the prevalence of corruption was higher at the national level (74%) than at the provincial (60%) or local levels (48%).

- Sixty-six percent of the respondents felt that security in their area was good or quite good, and 50 percent said they rarely or never feared for their own or their family's safety. Eighty-two percent said no one in their family had been a victim of any crime or violence during the last one year.

- Eighty percent of the people thought poppy cultivation was wrong; 50 percent of those who thought it was wrong cited religion as the reason, while 35 percent cited opium addiction. Linkages to terrorism and insecurity were cited by 10 percent or less of the people.

- Almost half of the people of Afghanistan (49%) think that their families are more prosperous today than they were during the Taliban regime. However, more than one-fourth of the people (28%) think that they are less prosperous today. In 2006, fifty-four percent of the respondents felt that they were more prosperous than they were under the Taliban regime, while 26 percent felt less prosperous, and 12 percent felt that there has been no change in their prosperity.

- Compared to two years ago, 51 percent said access to schools has improved. Situation of health of the family members has gotten better for 43 percent of the people while financial situation of the household has gotten better for 39 percent of the people.

- Democracy for most of the people of Afghanistan (51%) means freedom, followed by peace (33%). For a significant proportion of people it also means rights and law (26%) followed by government of the people (25%).

- Thirty-four percent believe that peace is the most important thing that democracy in Afghanistan will bring them personally. Others say democracy will bring freedom (30%), rights and law (23%) and government of the people (22%).

- Most of the people hold the opinion that democracy is not antithetical to Islam. Sixty-six percent believe that democracy can be Islamic while 29 percent believe that democracy challenges Islamic values.

- Sixty percent of Afghans are of the opinion that religious leaders should be consulted; only 36 percent think that politics and religion should not mix.

- Seventy-three percent of the people in Afghanistan are satisfied with the way democracy works in the country.

- Twenty-nine percent identify lack of education as the biggest problem facing women of Afghanistan today. Another 13 percent identify the lack of women's rights as the biggest problem followed by the lack of job opportunities for women (9%).

- Opposition to women in leadership positions in various political bodies ranges between 39 percent to 44 percent. The opposition is highest in national parliament (44%) and lowest in district development assembly (39%).

- For a little more than half of the people of Afghanistan (54%), radio is the main source of getting information about what is happening in the country followed by TV (26%). For some 14 percent it is friends, family and neighbors.

1.2 Summary

The overall mood of the country continues to be optimistic though the degree of optimism is marginally less than what it was in 2006. An important reason why the people continue to think the country is moving in the right direction is because of the favorable impression that reconstruction and rebuilding activities have created in the minds of the Afghan people.

Insecurity is the main reason for the people to believe that the country is headed in the wrong direction. In the eyes of men and women of Afghanistan, the security situation in the country has deteriorated. Likewise, security-related issues have also been identified as the biggest problem facing the country at the national level.

The problems at the local level, however, are quite different from that at the national level. Most people identify lack of electricity followed by unemployment and lack of water as the main problems at the local level.

With regard to people's perception of safety or security at personal and family levels, compared to last year, more people this year say that they fear for their personal or family's safety and security. However, only 16 percent mentioned that they have been victims of violence or of some criminal act during the past one year. The most cited types of violence or criminal act was physical attack or beating followed by burglary, looting and stealing livestock. What becomes apparent from the public's responses is that their experience with violence or crime, more often than not, is related to petty crimes rather than serious security lapses. In fact, these pertain more to areas of safety than they do to security. Thus while security is perceived as a problem at the national level, this does not find an echo at the local level. At the local level, the problem is more safety-related.

This could have come about because of weakened law and order situation at local levels. With regard to the common Afghan's knowledge about the implementation of development programs in their area, education is the area of which people know of or have heard of the most, followed by reconstruction/building of roads and bridges and then healthcare. The trend for 2007 is similar to 2006 in that education and reconstruction topped the list. However, de-militarization and de-mining have significantly dropped down this time.

The public's assessment towards the performance of the central government is positive, particularly in the areas of education, healthcare system and in maintaining relations with neighboring countries. People however believe that the central government needs to do more in creating job opportunities, in reviving the economy and in fighting corruption.

An overwhelming majority of Afghans have neither contacted their Member of Parliament (MP) nor their representative on the Provincial Council (PC) for help in solving their personal or local problems. This underscores the weak linkages that people continue to have with local government bodies.

The people of Afghanistan do not appear to place the state court system in high esteem. An average Afghan has a relatively higher level of trust and confidence towards local Shuras/Jirgas than towards the state judicial system. Likewise the proportion of the people who are satisfied with the outcome of the proceedings is significantly higher among those who have taken their cases to local Shura/Jirga than among those who have taken it to a state court. This underscores the Afghan people's continued confidence in traditional judicial systems rather than in modern ones.

People are satisfied with the way democracy works in Afghanistan. They also think that democracy can flourish in the country along with Islamic values. For half of the people of Afghanistan, democracy means freedom. However, at a more personal level the most important thing that democracy has brought to them is peace. This underscores the association of democracy with peace in the minds of the people of Afghanistan.

The idea of tolerance has yet to take firm roots in Afghan society. Most of the people continue to believe that political parties, which they do not like, should not be allowed to hold meetings in their area.

A large proportion of people think that most people do not feel free to express their political opinions in the area where they live. What is worrisome is that compared to 2006 an even less number of people say that they are free to express their political opinions this year.

Among the various types of activities, associational activities (like participating in a peaceful demonstration and running a public office) seem to generate apprehension. People's involvement in the public sphere continues to remain low. An overwhelming majority of Afghans are not members of any formal association or organization.

Lack of education (illiteracy) continues to be identified as the biggest problem facing women of Afghanistan. However, compared to 2006, changes in public's priority became apparent. Even though lack of education has been identified as the first priority this year too as in the case last year, the degree of priority is higher this year. Likewise, this time around unemployment has ascended to the third priority replacing 'forced marriages' from that position.

A majority of people in Afghanistan continue to hold the opinion that women should usually wear a burka outside the home. More women in Afghanistan think that there should be equal representation between men and women in every field and at every level than do their male counterparts.

Radio continues to be the main source of information from which people come to know about national events. Half of the people of Afghanistan continue to identify the radio as the main source for getting information. The importance of TV, the second most important source of information about national life, is increasing.

Meetings in the community are the most important source of information for getting news and information about current events among the Afghan people. Half of the people say that they use meetings in their communities to get news and information about current events.

In Afghan society, meetings or sermons at mosques are perceived to be an important source for getting news and information about current events. A majority mentioned that they use meetings or sermons at mosques - at whatever interval - to get news and information about current events.

From the opinions expressed by the people of Afghanistan, the picture that emerges is of a country that is still strongly rooted in tradition and conservatism. This is underscored, for instance, by the fact that meetings in the community and sermons at mosques are the strongest source of information about local events; that people believe that local religious leaders should be regularly consulted on the problems facing the locality, that people evince a greater deal of confidence towards traditional Shuras and Jirgas than the formal state courts. This may also be inferred from the attitude towards wearing the burka and woman's place in society. The challenge in Afghanistan for policy makers is to find an appropriate pace and manner of introducing change and modernization so that it does not come into direct conflict with traditional society.

2 The National Mood

2.1 Direction of the country

The survey attempted to gauge how people assess the overall situation of Afghanistan in view of the ongoing social, political and economic changes in the country. The largest section of people (42%) think that the country is moving in the right direction while 24 percent were of the opinion that it is moving in the wrong direction. One-fourth of the respondents said that some things were moving in the right direction while other things were moving in the wrong direction. The overall mood of the country continues to be optimistic.

However, the nation is less optimistic than what it was last year as the proportion of those who mention that the country is moving in the right direction is marginally less in 2007 compared to 2006. Equally those who say the country is moving in the wrong direction is marginally more in 2007 compared to 2006. The proportion of those who say 'some in the right and some in the wrong direction' has decreased this year.

Generally speaking, do you think things in Afghanistan today are going in the right direction, or do you think they are going in the wrong direction? (Q-9, Base 6263) COMPARISON WITH 2006

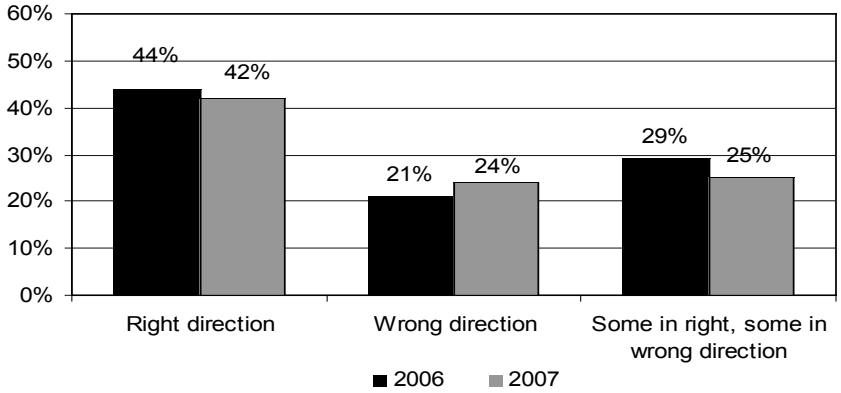

Fig 2.1

2.1.1 Factors cited for the optimism

A follow-up question was asked to those respondents who mentioned that things were moving in the right direction (i.e., 42% of the total respondents). Respondents were allowed to mention two reasons why they thought the country was moving in the right direction. Thirty-nine percent mentioned that they thought so because reconstruction and rebuilding are taking place while 34 percent mentioned that the security situation was good. Some 19 percent thought that things were moving in the right direction because schools for girls had opened. A significant proportion (16%) mentioned peace and the end of war as the reason.

Why do you say that things are moving in the right direction? (Q-10 a&b, Base 2648)

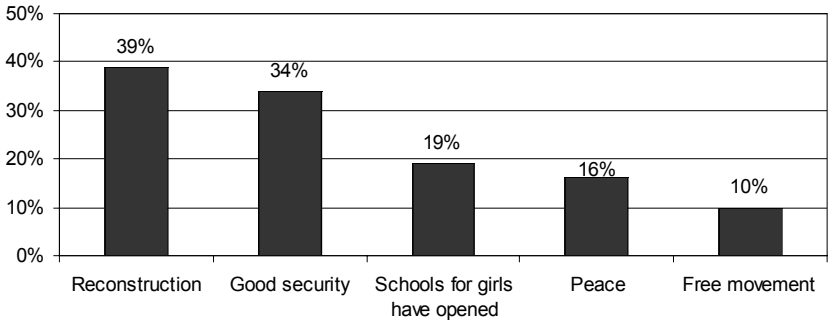

Fig 2.2

Reconstruction and rebuilding of Afghanistan seems to have struck a positive chord among its nationals in 2007. Afghans seem to have noticed the pace of the reconstruction and rebuilding of the country and this has been an important reason why a sizeable number of people in the country think the country is moving in the right direction. If in 2006, rebuilding of the country had been identified as the fourth most important reason to believe that the country was headed in the right direction; in 2007 it has become the most important reason for believing so. This further underscores the good pace at which the reconstruction of the country is taking place.

Why do you say that things are moving in the right direction? (Q-10 a&b, Base 2648) COMPARISON WITH 2006

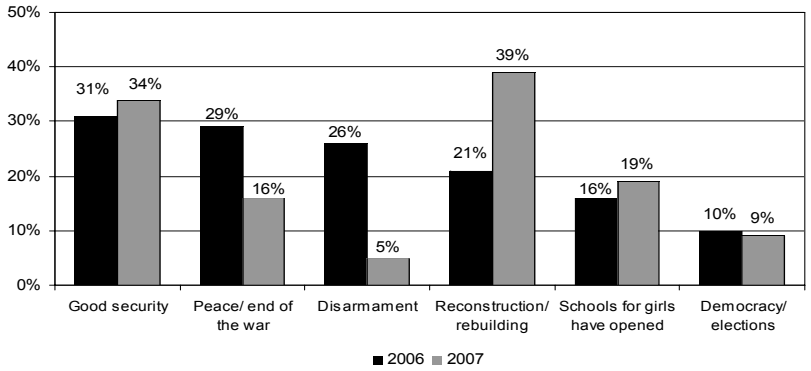

Fig 2.3

2.1.2 Factors cited for lack of country's progress

The follow-up question asked to those respondents who mentioned that things are moving in the wrong direction (i.e., 24 percent of the total respondents) was to mention two reasons why they thought that the country was moving in the wrong direction. Almost half of them (48%) mentioned that they thought so because of

the insecurity in the country. Other reasons like bad government (15%), unemployment (15%), administrative corruption (15%), corruption (13%) and bad economy (12%) were also mentioned.

Why do you say that things are moving in the wrong direction? (Q-11 a&b, Base 1486)

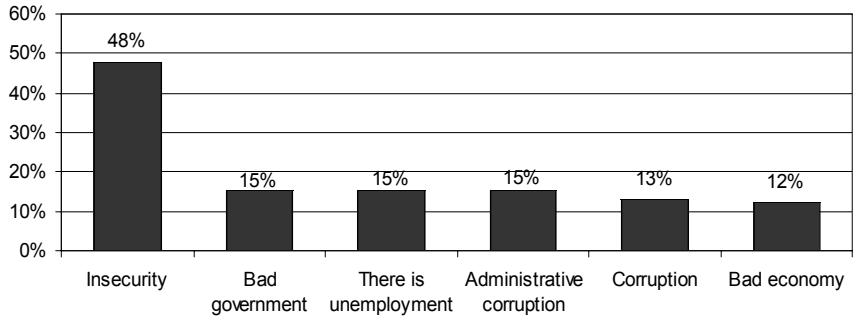

Fig 2.4

In contrast to 2006 when insecurity had not been mentioned as a major reason for the country's movement in the wrong direction - the first position had been taken up by lack of economic development - this year around insecurity has been mentioned as the main reason for the country not heading in the right direction. However, 'insecurity' being mentioned as the primary reason why things are not moving in the right direction, is worrisome. The security situation in the country in 2007 has deteriorated.

Why do you say that things are moving in the wrong direction? (Q-11 a&b, Base 1486) COMPARISON WITH 2006

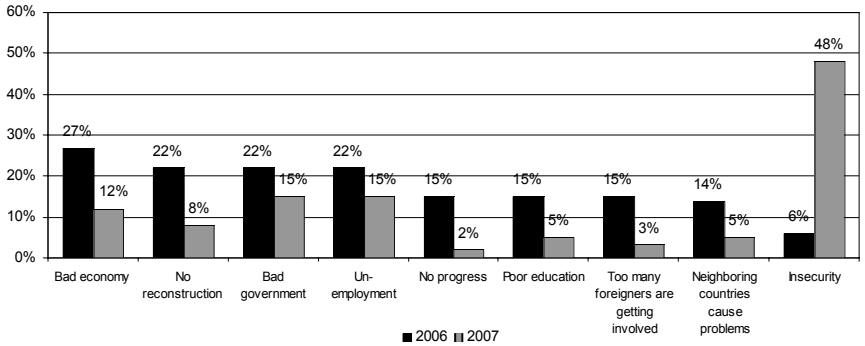

Fig 2.5

There was considerable regional variation amongst the reasons cited for the country going in a wrong direction. Though insecurity remained the single largest reason across all regions, a considerably lower proportion of people (29%) felt it was a problem

in the Northern region as compared to the South Western region (70%) and Eastern region (62%). The Central Hazarajat region and Central Kabul region were also below the national average in terms of the number of people who felt insecurity was the biggest reason. Bad governance and lack of economic development were of particular concern to residents of Central Hazarajat.

Table 2.1: Reasons given by those saying things are moving in the wrong direction (Q-11 a & b combined, Base 1486) BY REGION

	Base: All respondents (%)	Central/ Kabul (%)	Eastern (%)	South Central (%)	South Western (%)	Western (%)	Northern (%)	Central/ Hazarajat (%)
Base: Those saying wrong direction	1486	225	126	267	227	194	319	129
Insecurity	48	38	62	52	70	55	29	42
Bad government	15	15	7	11	8	12	19	35
There is unemployment	15	17	12	15	10	11	15	25
Administrative corruption	15	17	11	11	8	18	11	35
Corruption	13	12	21	19	10	10	11	9
Bad economy	12	14	12	11	10	20	13	5
Presence of Taliban	9	6	7	9	13	14	10	1
No reconstruction has happened	8	7	9	6	7	9	12	2
Poor leadership	7	11	3	2	4	9	13	4
Poor education system	5	3	4	4	10	3	3	11

2.2 Afghanistan's biggest problems: National level to local level

The survey sought to document public opinion regarding the biggest problem facing Afghanistan as a whole. Security issues (including attacks, violence and terrorism) were identified as the biggest problem in Afghanistan by 32 percent. Those who cited presence of Taliban and warlords constituted another 9 percent. Twelve percent identified unemployment as the biggest problem facing Afghanistan, followed by poor economy (9%).

In your view, what is the biggest problem facing Afghanistan as a whole? (Q-12a, Base 6263)

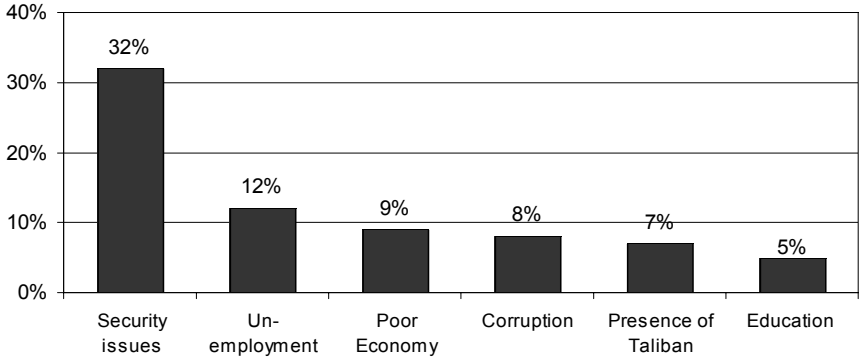

Fig. 2.6

During the interview, respondents were asked to mention the next biggest problem facing the country as a whole. After combining the responses obtained for the biggest problem and next biggest problem, it is seen that there are no changes in order of priority. The security issue stands as the first biggest problem (46%), while presence of warlords and Taliban adds another 17 percent to security related issues. Unemployment is the second biggest factor (27%) and poor economy the third (19%).

When this finding is compared to that of last year, changes in priority become apparent. In the 2006 survey, it was unemployment first, followed by security and corruption and this time around it is security first followed by unemployment and poor economy. This further underlines the deterioration in security in the eyes of the common Afghans.

In your view, what is the biggest problem facing Afghanistan as a whole? (Q-12 a&b, Base 6263) COMPARISON WITH 2006

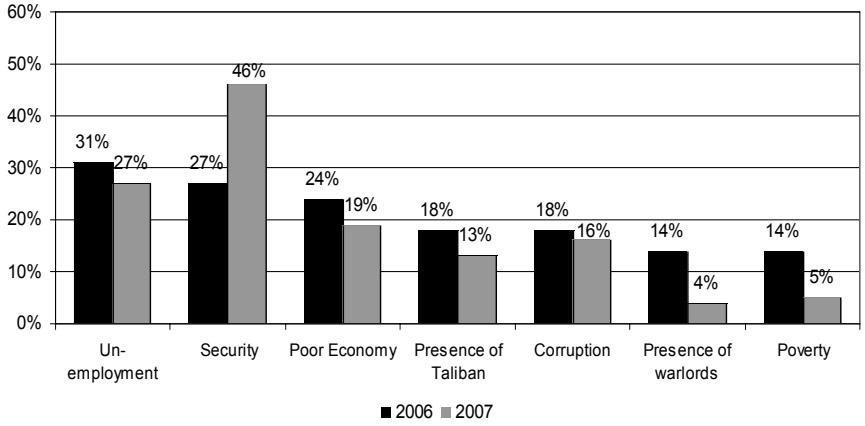

Fig 2.7

The problems at the local level are quite different from those at the national level. Fifteen percent identified lack of electricity to be the biggest problem in their local areas. Another 14 percent mentioned unemployment as the biggest problem at the local level followed by those who said lack of water (11%), education/schools/literacy (10%) and roads (10%).

What is the biggest problem in your local area? (Q-13a, Base 6263)

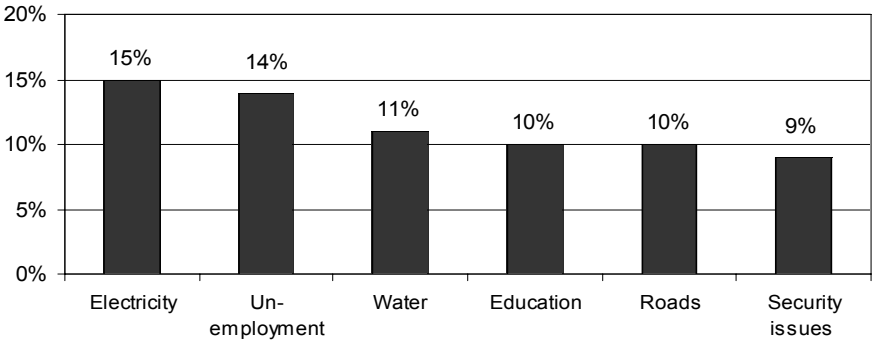

Fig. 2.8

Only nine percent mentioned security as a major problem at the local level. It is development-related issues that are identified as the major problems at the local level.

The priority regarding the biggest problem at the local level varies across regions. Lack of electricity is identified as the main problem in Central-Kabul region (20%), Eastern region (27%) and the Northern region (16%). Unemployment has been identified as the biggest problem in the Western region (25%) and education in Central-Hazarajat (17%) while security was the single largest factor in the South Western region.

What is the biggest problem in your local area? (Q-13a, Base 6263) BY REGION

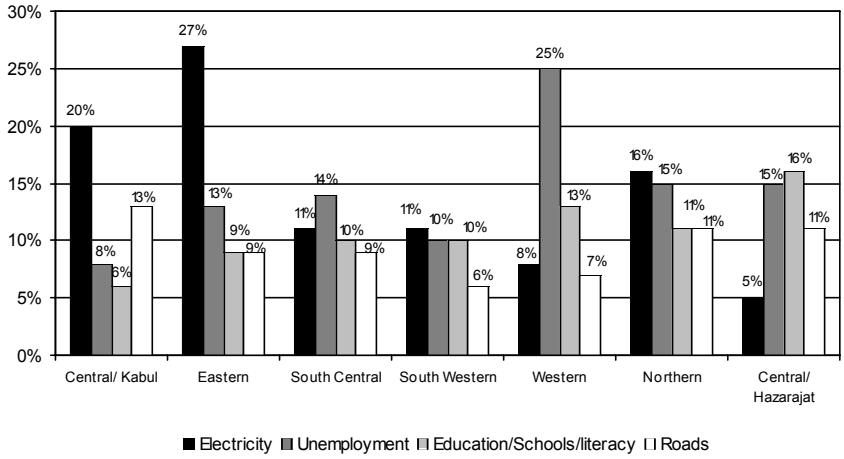

Fig. 2.9

The respondents were also asked to mention the next biggest problem at the local level. After combining the responses obtained for the biggest problem and the next biggest problem, there are no changes in the order of priority. Electricity stands as the first biggest problem (27%), unemployment the second (26%), water and education the third (21% each), and road the fourth (19%). Again this is in contrast to 2006, when unemployment had been identified as the biggest problem at the local level followed by electricity and poverty.

What is the biggest problem in your local area? (Q-13 a&b, Base 6263) COMPARISON WITH 2006

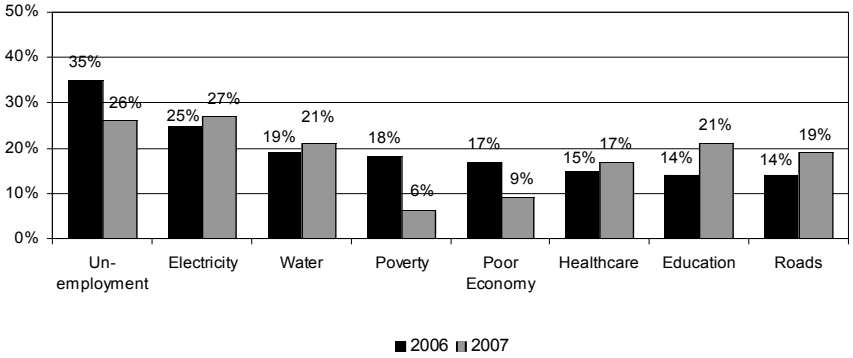

Fig 2.10

2.3 Basic amenities and future expectations

The survey attempted to gauge the Afghan people's perceptions about the present conditions of various infrastructural facilities in their localities. The table below summarizes their views on the availability of clean drinking water, water for irrigation, availability of jobs, supply of electricity, security situation, availability of medical care and availability of education for children. It had also asked about the freedom of movement.

Table 2.2: Present condition of various infrastructure in localities (Q-16 a&h, Base 6263)

Infrastructure	Very good (%)	Quite good (%)	Quite bad (%)	Very bad (%)
Availability of clean drinking water	23	40	29	7
Availability of water for irrigation	18	41	30	10
Availability of jobs	7	23	45	24
Supply of electricity	10	21	33	35
Security situation	25	41	23	10
Availability of medical care	14	42	33	11
Availability of education for children	27	45	20	8
Freedom of movement	26	46	22	6

What the above account reveals is that among the various services, Afghan people identify the supply of electricity and the availability of jobs as the main problematic areas where improvements need to be made. This finding, in addition, corroborates the finding highlighted in chart 2.8.

The perception of availability of medical care varies by region. Most of the people in South-Western and Central-Hazarajat think that it is quite bad or very bad while the people in other regions find it quite good or very good.

Would you rate Availability of medical care as very good, quite good, quite bad, very bad in your area? (Q-16f, Base 6263) BY REGION

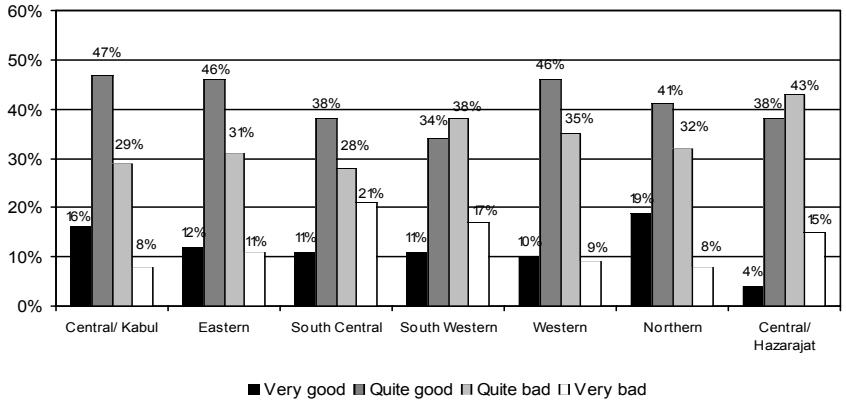

Fig. 2.11

Availability of education also varies significantly by region. Most of the people in South-Central, South-Western and Central-Hazarajat think that it is quite bad or very bad while most of the people in other regions find it quite good or very good.

Would you rate Availability of education for children as very good,quite good, quite bad, very bad in your area? (Q-16g, Base 6263) BY REGION

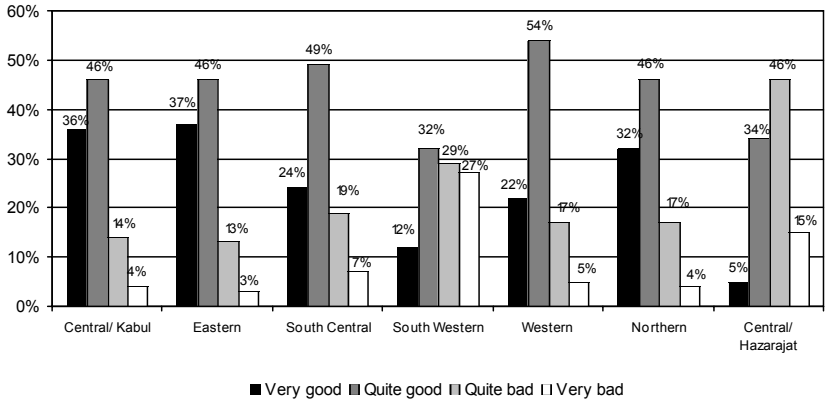

Fig. 2.12

The survey also asked the people to express their expectation on the availability of the amenities in their areas a year from now. It found that an overwhelming majority of Afghan people expect that all of these facilities will be much better or somewhat better within a year. This further evinces their optimism.

2.4 Perceptions towards the government

The survey attempted to document the public perceptions towards the government by asking the following question: "I don't think that the government cares much about what people like me think: Do you strongly agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat or strongly disagree with this statement?" The response towards this statement reveals the distance that many people feel from the government. Thirty-two percent strongly agreed while another 47 percent agreed somewhat with the statement. Disagreement with this statement is low.

Another question was asked: "It is generally not acceptable to talk negatively about the government in public. Do you strongly agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat or strongly disagree with this statement?" The response towards this statement also underscores their apprehension towards the government. Thirty percent agreed strongly while another 39 percent agreed somewhat. Again, disagreement of people to this statement is low. Response to this question as in the case with the previous one underscores the common Afghan's apprehensions towards the government.

Table 2.3: Public's agreement or disagreement with the following statement (Q-15 a&b, Base 6263)

	Strongly agree (%)	Somewhat agree (%)	Somewhat disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)
I don't think that the government cares much about what people like me think.	32	47	15	3
It is generally not acceptable to talk negatively about the government in public.	30	39	22	7

The response to these two questions underscores the fact that the average Afghan feels that the government is very distant. He or she tends to feel estranged from the government.

The survey attempted to measure feelings towards the way the government is carrying out its responsibilities. Twenty-five percent think that the government is doing a very good job and another 55 percent think that it is doing a somewhat good job. Once these two categories are combined, what becomes apparent is that more than three-fourths of Afghan people assess the performance of the government positively.

Thinking of the National/ Central Government, how do you feel about the way it is carrying out its responsibilities? (Q-65a, Base 6263)

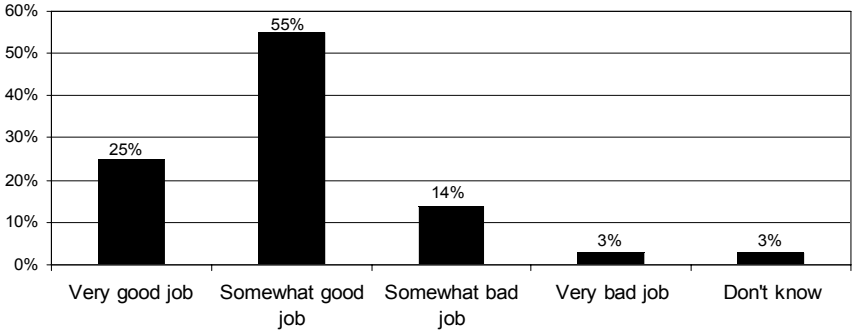

Fig. 2.13

An attempt was then made to gauge feelings towards the performance of the government in specific areas such as education, healthcare, creating job opportunities, maintaining relations with neighbouring countries, reviving/developing the economy and fighting corruption. Public assessment of the performance of the government is provided in table 2.4.

Table 2.4: Public feelings towards the performance of the central government in specific aspects of its work (Q-65b a-f, Base 6263)

Aspect of work	Very Good job (%)	Somewhat good job (%)	Somewhat bad job (%)	Very bad job (%)
Education	42	46	9	2
Healthcare system	23	49	23	5
Creating job opportunities	8	27	39	25
Maintaining relations with neighbouring countries	23	45	21	8
Reviving/developing the economy	11	35	35	18
Fighting corruption	12	24	31	33

There are clearly some areas like health and education where people feel the government has performed well, which account for the positive overall assessment. However, there are certain areas where the public feels that the central government has not performed well and where initiatives have to be taken. These include creating job opportunities, fighting corruption and reviving/developing economy.

2.5 Perceptions towards the legislature

The survey sought to document perceptions towards the National Assembly and Members of Parliament (MPs) as well. A couple of statements about the parliament and MPs were read out to the respondents and they were asked to state whether

they agree or disagree with the statements. The first statement was "The Parliament is addressing the major problems of people in our country." The response towards this statement is positive. Twenty-six percent strongly agreed while about half of the people agreed somewhat. However, disagreement of Afghan people with this statement is also significant (24%).

Do you agree with "The Parliament is addressing the major problems of people in our country"? (Q-80a, Base 6263)

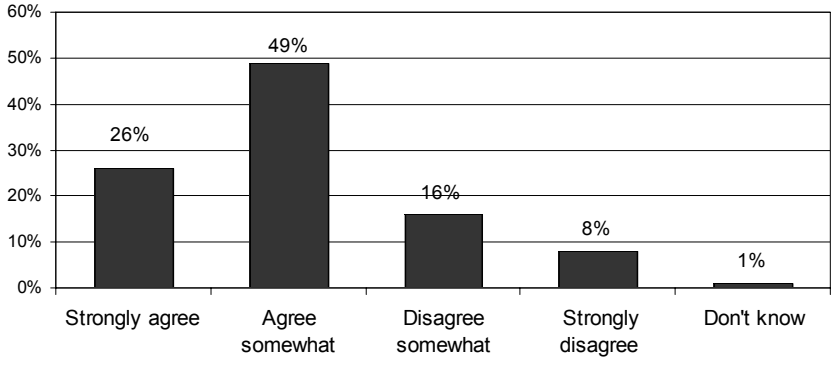

Fig. 2.14

Another statement was "My MP is addressing the major problems of my constituency in the parliament." The response towards this statement was also generally positive. Twenty-three percent strongly agreed while another 41 percent agreed somewhat. However, disagreement with this statement is also significant (33%), which goes to emphasize that MPs need to convey to the people that the issues of the concerned constituency are being raised in the National Assembly.

Do you agree with "My MP is addressing the major problems of my constituency in Parliament"? (Q-80b, Base 6263)

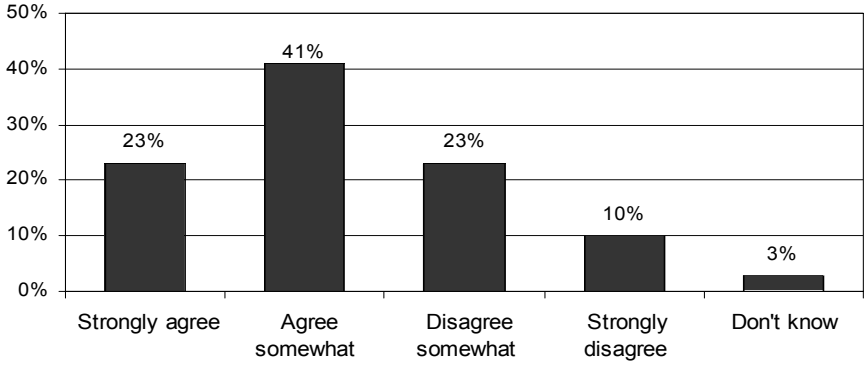

Fig. 2.15

2.6 Public confidence towards various institutions and organizations

The survey measured the level of Afghan peoples' confidence towards various institutions and organizations including the political parties. The names of institutions/organizations were read out and respondents were asked to state how much confidence they have in each of the institutions/organizations with respect to their performance. From the response to this question what becomes evident is that among the various institutions/organizations, Afghan people have a great deal or fair amount of confidence towards the Afghan National Army (88%) followed by the Afghan National Police (83%). The public confidence towards electronic media such as radio/TV (74%) and community Jirgas or Shuras (71%) is also high. International NGOs, Provincial Council and print media such as newspapers then follow. But public confidence towards municipalities, government justice system, local militias and political parties is low. With regard to political parties and the formal justice system specially, there is a low level of confidence. In other words, Afghans evince a great deal of confidence towards state security forces and traditional institutions like Shuras and Jirgas.

Table 2.5: Percentage of the people who have a great deal or fair amount of confidence towards various institutions and organizations (Q-55 a-o, Base 6263)

Institution/Organization	Confidence (Great deal + Fair amount) (%)
Afghan National Army	88
Afghan National Police	83
Electronic media such as radio, TV	74
Community Shuras/Jirgas	71
Provincial Council	69
International NGOs	65
Community Development Council	64
Print media such as newspaper	62
Public administration	61
National NGOs	59
Government ministers	58
Municipalities	48
Government justice system	48
Political parties	39
Local militias	33

2.7 Corruption: From local to the state level

The survey sought to document the people's perception towards corruption from local to the state level. It also sought to assess its impacts on different facets of life. The question was: "Please tell me whether you think that corruption is a major problem, a minor problem, or no problem at all in the following areas." The question sought to assess its consequences in areas such as: (a) In one's daily life, (b) In one's neighbourhood, (c) In one's local authorities, (d) In one's provincial government, and (e) In Afghanistan as a whole.

Most of the people think that corruption is a major problem in all the five areas in varying degrees. Generally speaking, the wider the area under consideration, the greater the perception of corruption. For instance, three-fourths of Afghans think that corruption is a major problem in the country as a whole. Some 60 percent think that it is a major problem at the provincial government level while 48 percent mention that it is major problem at the level of local authorities.

Table 2.6: Percentage of the people who think corruption is a major problem in various areas (Q-27 a-e, Base 6263)

Area	Major Problem (%)
In Afghanistan as a whole	74
In your provincial government	60
In your local authorities	48
In your daily life	47
In your neighbourhood	43

In order to assess how the people see the trends in corruption in the aforementioned areas compared to the past, the survey had asked another question: "Compared to one year ago, do you think that the amount of corruption overall in these areas has increased, stayed the same or decreased?" About 57 percent think that the amount of corruption has increased in Afghanistan as whole while 45 percent think that it has done so at provincial government levels. A significant number of the people (31%) think that corruption has increased at the level of local authorities.

Table 2.7: Percentage of the people who think amount of corruption has increased in various areas (Q-28 a-e, Base 6263)

Area	Increased (%)
In Afghanistan as a whole	57
In your provincial government	45
In your local authorities	31
In your daily life	21
In your neighbourhood	21

Although this is how the people assessed the trend, actual comparisons with the 2006 survey reveal an overall decline in the number of people who specified corruption as a major problem in these areas. For instance, in contrast to 74 percent and 60 percent who mentioned that corruption was a major problem in Afghanistan as a whole and in provincial governments respectively in 2007, the proportion of those who said so at these two levels in 2006 were 77 percent and 66 percent respectively - a drop by several points in each of the cases. Likewise, compared to last year, those who say corruption is increasing, is less this year. However the number of people who reported corruption in their daily lives and in their neighborhood was higher than last year.

Please tell me whether you think that corruption is a major problem, a minor problem, or no problem at all in Afghanistan as a whole. (Q- 27e, Base 6263) COMPARISON WITH 2006

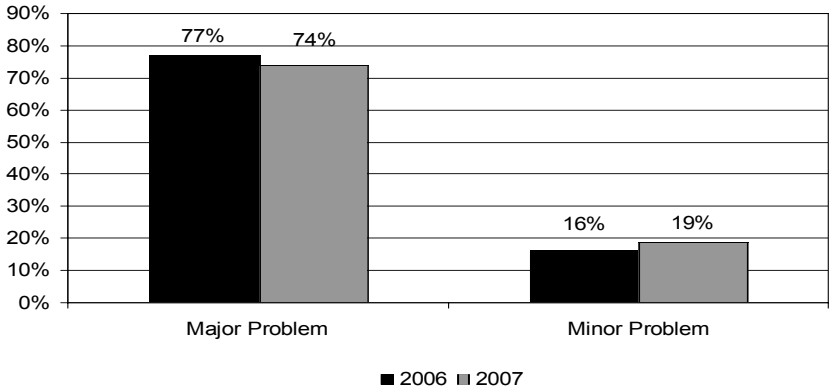

Fig 2.16

Please tell me whether you think that corruption is a major problem, a minor problem, or no problem at all in your provincial government. (Q- 27d, Base 6263) COMPARISON WITH 2006

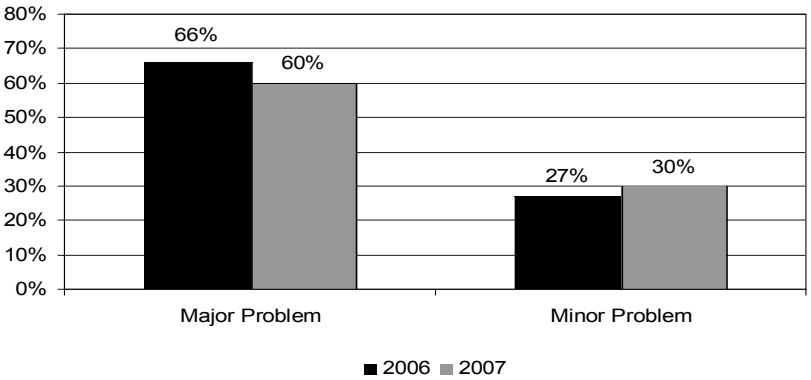

Fig 2.17

The survey attempted to measure incidents of corruption by asking a simple question: "Whenever you have contacted government officials, how often in the past year have you had to give cash, a gift or perform a favour for an official? If you had contacts with such officials in the past year, was it in all cases, most of the cases, in isolated or in no cases?" Thirty percent mentioned that there were cases (combination of all cases, most of the cases and isolated cases) where they had to give cash, a gift or perform a favour for officials in public healthcare service. Twenty-six percent mentioned that there were such cases when applying for jobs. One-fourth of the people said that they had to do such things when dealing with Afghan National Police. Similarly, judiciary/courts and the state electricity supply agency are also cited. Among the organizations, Afghan National Army is the one with which the people have least amounts of corruption-related experience.

Table 2.8: Percentage of the people who have corruption-related experience. The figures have been re-percentaged on those respondents who have had some contact with the organization/area in question (as below)-(Q-29 a-j, Base 6263)

Organization/Area	In all cases (%)	In most cases (%)	In isolated cases (%)	Combination of cases (%)
When applying for a job	8	22	22	52
To receive official documents	10	16	25	51
Judiciary/ courts	6	16	27	49
State Electricity Supply	5	15	28	48
Public Healthcare Service	4	16	26	45
Afghan National Police	3	12	29	44
Officials in municipality	7	14	22	44
Custom Offices	5	12	18	35
On admission to school/ university	5	13	17	35
Afghan National Army	3	8	15	25

The data reveals that while services like customs and job application are areas where bribes are sought more frequently, more citizens pay bribes for services like health and education on a routine basis because they are more frequently in contact with these services, whereas the number of people applying for jobs or using customs is fewer.

Overall, the survey reveals that the presence of corruption is somewhat widespread in Afghanistan - from public's daily life to the entire country, and public healthcare service to the customs office. In the eyes of people it is increasing. It is also worth-mentioning that corruption incidents are marked in those areas where a large number of people have to interact with the concerned institutions. (If table 2.8 is compared to table 2.5, it could be argued that the public tends to have a low degree of confidence towards specific organizations precisely because they are perceived to be corrupt).

In a context where the availability of jobs is a serious challenge both at the national and local levels, and has been identified as an area where the central government needs to do something immediately, it is unfortunate that bribery is widely prevalent when applying for jobs.

As a word of caution it is important to reiterate that though a comparison with the 2006 data suggests otherwise, in the minds of the public, corruption is pervasive and seen to be prevalent in all areas of social life.

3 Security

3.1 Security Situation

Increasing insecurity in Afghanistan over the last one year was reflected in public perception with the survey revealing an increased concern with security. However, the perceptions varied widely regionally and there was considerable difference in the perception of insecurity nation-wide and at the provincial, local and neighbourhood level. Overall, the instances of violence encountered by Afghan citizens were largely due to crime rather that insurgency or terrorist-related actions.

Would you rate Security situation as very good in your area? (Q-16 e, Base 6263)

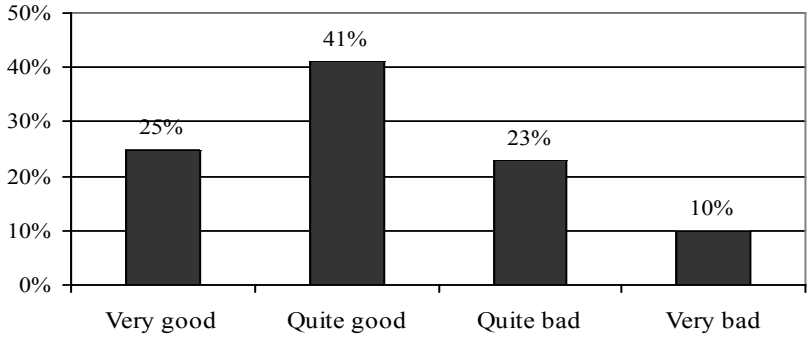

Fig. 3.1

Public views on the security situation vary by region. It is identified as being problematic in South-Western, Western, South-Central and Central-Hazarajat. While, specially those in the Central/Kabul region (86%) and the Northern region (89%) rate the security situation as good.

Would you rate Security situation as very good in your area? (Q-16e, Base 6263) BY REGION

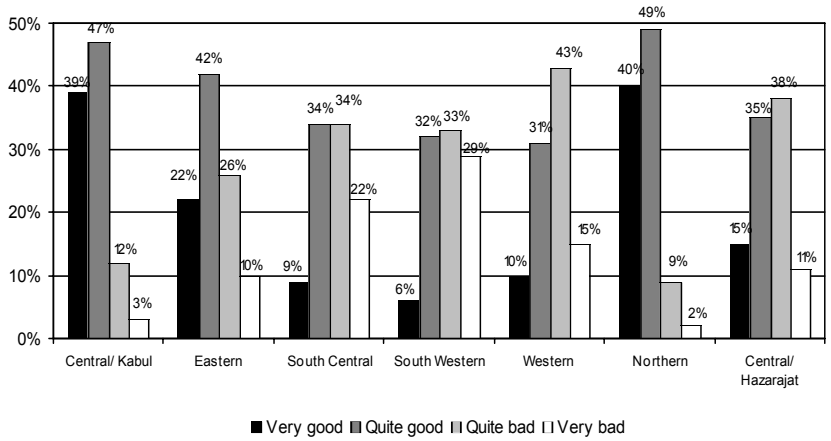

Fig.3.2

3.2 Personal and family safety and security

One of the objectives of the survey was to gauge the perception of safety or security at personal and family levels. Thirty-eight percent mentioned that they fear sometimes for their own personal safety or for that of their families these days while another 30 percent mentioned that they never fear.

Once this question is compared to last year, what becomes evident is that the proportion of those who mention 'never' has significantly decreased this year (by 9%), while those that mentioned 'sometimes' has significantly risen up (by 7%).

How often do you fear for your own personal safety or security or for that of your family these days? (Q-18, Base 6263) COMPARISON WITH 2006

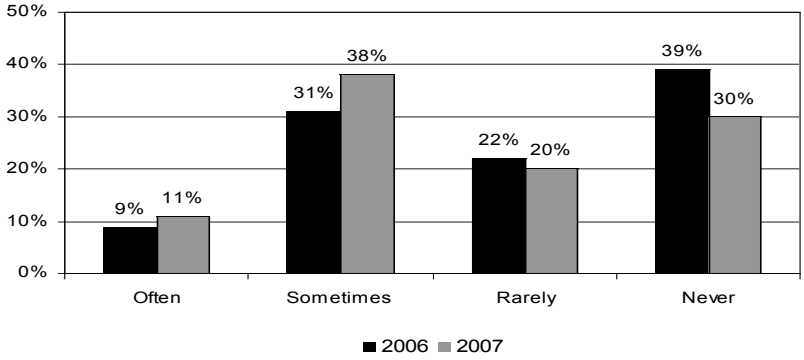

Fig 3.3

Safety or security situation at personal and family levels in the public's perspective varies by regions. Most of the people living in Central-Kabul (43%) and Northern region (45%) never fear for personal and family security these days while most of the people living in other regions do so sometimes.

How often do you fear for your own personal safety or security or for that of your family these days? (Q-18, Base 6263)

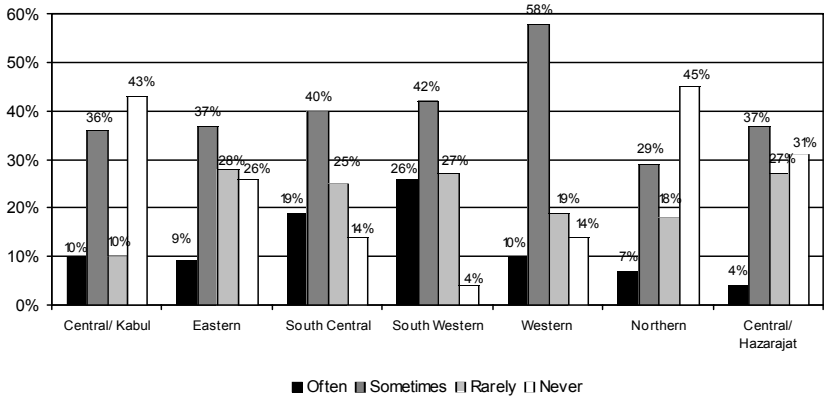

Fig 3.4

The survey also attempted to measure the level of safety or security against crimes in the last one year. An overwhelming majority of 82 percent said they were not victims of any crime or violence while 16 percent mentioned that they had been victims of violence or of some criminal act during the past one year.

Have you or has anyone in your family been a victim of violence or of some criminal act in your home or community in the past year? (Q-19, Base 6263)

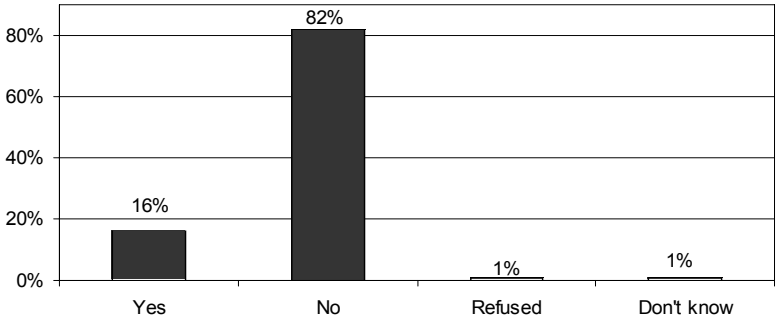

Fig 3.5

A follow-up question about the kind of violence and crime they faced was asked to those respondents who have been victims of violence or crime during the last one year (i.e., 16 percent of the total respondents). Respondents were allowed to mention more than one kind of violence or crime. In response to this question about 30 percent mentioned physical attack or beating followed by burglary or looting. A significant proportion of 15 percent mentioned stolen livestock. Racketeering and pick-pocketing were each reported by 13 percent of the respondents.

What kind of violence or crime did you or someone in your family experience in the past year? (Q-20, Base 983)

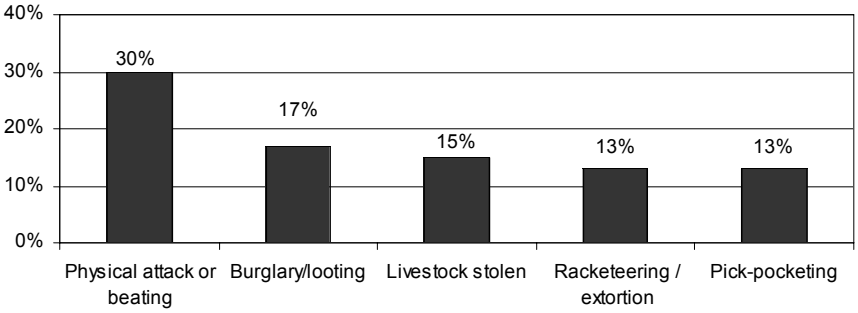

Fig 3.6

What becomes apparent from the public responses is that their experience with violence or crime, more often than not, is related to petty crimes. Violence resulting from militant action, army action, foreign forces' action, and suicide bombings together added up to 14 percent.

3.3 Trust towards individuals

The survey endeavoured to understand the public's trust towards other individuals in general. More than half of the people mentioned that they need to be very careful with most people while some 40 percent mentioned that most people can be trusted.

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people? (Q-53, Base 6263)

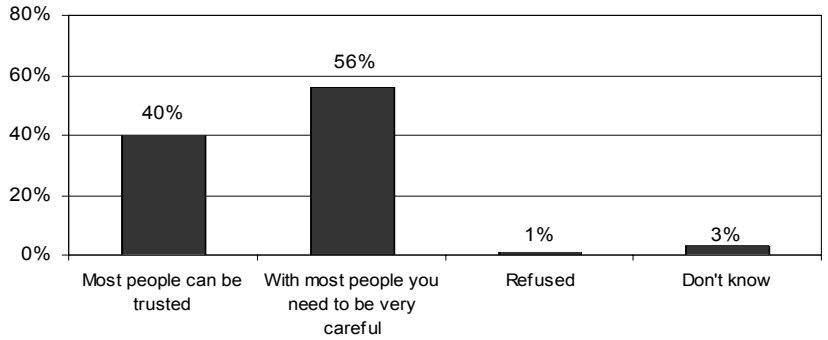

Fig 3.7

The public perception in this regard varies significantly by region. Even though most of the people living in any one of the seven regions of Afghanistan think that people need to be very careful with most people, those living in Central-Hazarajat are more suspicious towards other individuals. The findings are comparable with 2006, showing only marginal differences.

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people? (Q-53, Base 6263)

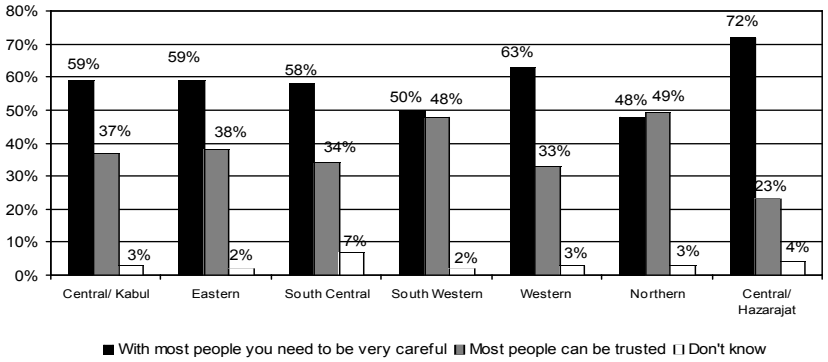

Fig 3.8

The survey also found that only one-third of the respondents believe that people try to help others in most instances while as many as two-thirds of them believe that people only think about themselves.

Do you believe that in most instances people are only thinking about themselves or do you believe that in the most instances people try to help others? (Q-54, Base 6263)

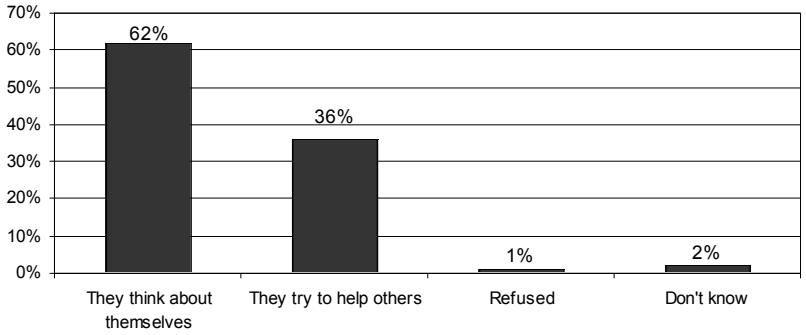

Fig 3.9

3.4 Afghan National Army in public perception

The survey attempted to uncover the public perception towards Afghan National Army (ANA). During the interview, a series of statements about ANA was read to respondents one by one and they were asked to indicate whether they agree or disagree with the statements.

Table 3.1: Public agreement and disagreement towards various statements about ANA (Q-56 a-d, Base 6263)

Statement	Strongly agree (%)	Somewhat agree (%)	Somewhat disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)
ANA is honest and fair with the Afghan people	52	38	7	1
ANA is unprofessional and poorly trained	25	37	26	10
ANA needs the support of foreign troops and cannot operate by itself.	40	37	14	7
ANA helps improve the security	54	35	7	3

Overall, the public seems to be positively oriented towards the ANA. They think that the organization is honest and fair with them, and it helps improve the security situation in the country. However, they also feel that more professional training should be provided, and more support of foreign troops is required to the organization.

3.5 Afghan National Police in public perception

Similarly, the survey attempted to uncover public perception towards Afghan National Police (ANP). As in the case with ANA, a series of statements about ANP was read to respondents one by one and they were asked to state whether they agree or disagree with the statements. Public response to all of these statements about the ANP is summarized in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2: Public's agreement and disagreement towards various statements about ANP (Q-57 a-d, Base 6263)

Statement	Strongly agree (%)	Somewhat agree (%)	Somewhat disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)
ANP is honest and fair with the Afghan people	45	41	11	3
ANP is unprofessional and poorly trained	27	38	23	10
ANP needs the support of foreign troops and cannot operate by itself.	41	36	14	7
ANP helps improve the security	49	37	10	3

What the assessment in an overall sense reveals is that the public is positively oriented towards the ANP just like they are towards the ANA. As in the case with ANA, they disagree with negatively-framed statements. They think that the organization is honest and fair with them, and it has helped improve the security situation in the country. However, they also feel that more professional training should be provided, and more support of foreign troops is required for the organization.

3.6 Perception towards poppy cultivation

Poppy cultivation is a major problem in specific areas of Afghanistan. The survey aimed to document the public perception towards poppy cultivation. The respondents were asked to indicate whether their views are closer to "poppy cultivation is okay and government should not care about it" or to "poppy cultivation is wrong and the government should do more to stop it". An overwhelming majority of Afghan people (80%) opted for the latter, which means that they are against poppy cultivation. While the majority thought it is wrong another 16 percent thought that poppy cultivation is okay.

Some people say that poppy cultivation is okay, and that the government should not worry too much about it, while others say that it is wrong, and that the gov-ernment should do more to stop it. Which is closer to your view? (Q-44, Base 6263)

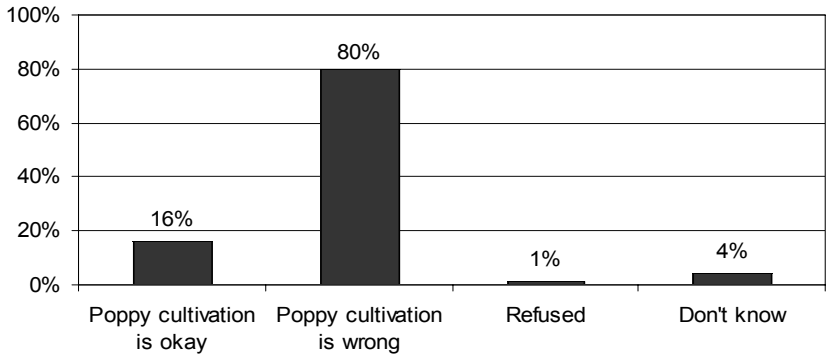

Fig 3.10

Public view about poppy cultivation significantly varies across regions. Even though most of the people in all the seven regions are against its cultivation, in relative terms, less number of people are against it in the Eastern, South-Western and Central-Hazarajat regions of the country. However there seems no direct correlation between the perception towards poppy cultivation and the actual cultivation on the ground. Areas which have a higher rate of poppy cultivation did not see a higher degree of public acceptance of poppy cultivation.

Some people say that poppy cultivation is okay, and that the government should not worry too much about it, while others say that it is wrong, and that the government should do more to stop it. Which is closer to your view? (Q-44, Base 6263) BY REGION

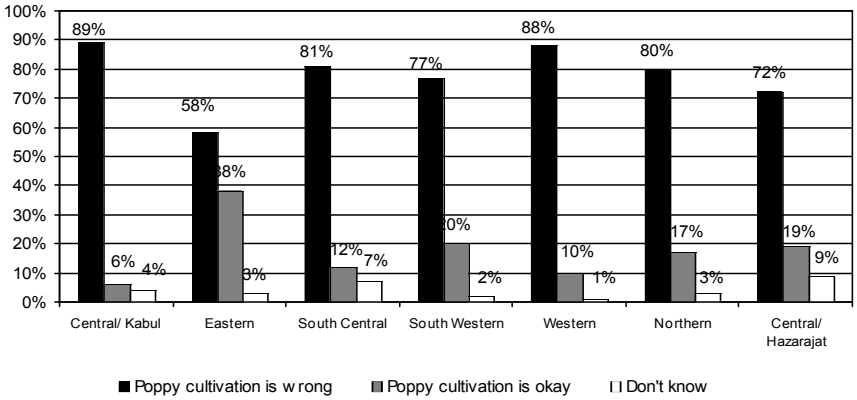

Fig 3.11

Those respondents who mentioned that it is okay (i.e., 16 percent of the total respondents) were asked to mention why they think poppy cultivation is okay. They were allowed to mention more than one reason. About 39 percent of them said that it is okay because growing poppy is more profitable than growing other crops while some 37 percent said so because it needs less water. Thirty-four percent said it was ok because medicines are made from it and the same proportion of the people supported it because people get employed in this business.

Table 3.3: Why do you say that poppy cultivation is okay?
(Q-45, Base 983)

	(%)
Growing poppy is more profitable than growing other crops	39
Poppy cultivation needs less water	37
To make medicines from poppy	34
People get employed	34
The government does not pay attention to farmers	28
Working on poppy farm is more profitable than other jobs	13
Instead of wine, we produce poppy	10

A follow-up question was asked to those respondents who mentioned that poppy cultivation is wrong (i.e., 80 percent of the total respondents). Respondents were allowed to mention more than one reason. Half of them (50%) mentioned that it is wrong because poppy cultivation is forbidden/sin (Haram/Gunah) in Islam while some 35 percent thought so because people become addicted to opium. One-fourth (25%) of the people are against the cultivation because it misguides the youth and hurts their education and job prospects. Seventeen percent disapprove of it because the cultivation is a crime according to the country's law and the same proportion of the people are against it because it is detrimental to the country's reputation. There was little awareness of any linkage of poppy cultivation to terrorism or insecurity, with only a combined 15 percent of the population mentioning it as a reason.

Table 3.4: Why do you say that poppy cultivation is wrong? (Q-46, Base 4986)

	(%)
In Islam, poppy cultivation is a forbidden/sin (Haram/Gunah)	50
People become addicted to opium	35
It misguides the youth/hurts education or job prospects	25
According to the laws, poppy cultivation is a crime	17
It is detrimental to Afghanistan's reputation	17
It causes high prices	15
It is a source of income for terrorists	10
It causes insecurity in our country	8
Poppy makes some people rich, but keeps most Afghan poor	7
It creates corruption among government officials	6
It is deterring international assistance	4
It hurts other farmers	4

3.7 Safety in participation in various activities

The survey attempted to know whether people would participate in various activities with no fear, some fear or a lot of fear. During the interview, a series of activities was read to respondents one by one and they were asked to express whether they would participate in these activities with some degree of fear or without fear. The first activity asked about was "Participating in resolving problems in your community." Fifty-nine percent of the respondents mentioned that they would participate in this activity without fear while another 32 percent mentioned that they would do it with some fear.

Table 3.5: Public's level of fear to participate in various activities (Q-30 a-e, Base 6263)

Activity	No fear (%)	Some fear (%)	A lot of fear (%)
Participating in resolving problems in your community	59	32	6
Voting in a national election	53	33	11
Participating in a peaceful demonstration	34	37	24
Running a public office	36	36	20
Encountering ANP officers	46	35	14

Going by region, South-Western and Western regions show a significant degree of deviation from the national average. Almost half of the people living in these two regions mentioned that they would participate in resolving problems in the communities with some fear.

Please, tell me, whether you would Participate in resolving problems in your community with 'no fear', 'some fear' or a 'lot of fear'? (Q-30a, Base 6263)

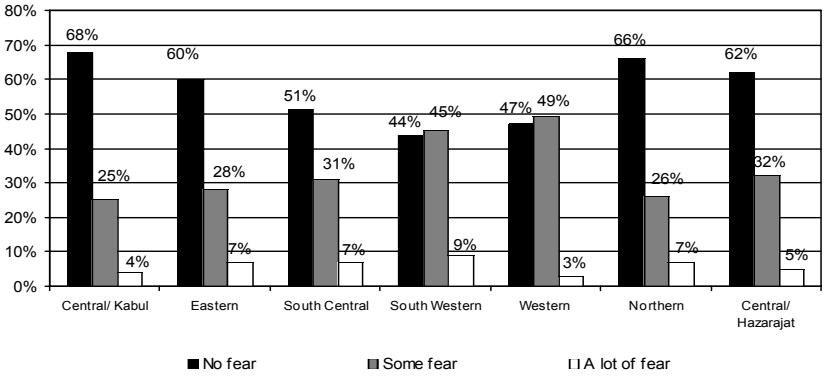

Fig 3.12

Women were more fearful than the men while participating in problems in their community. Overall, 44 percent women said they would have some fear (35%) or a lot of fear (9%) while 32 percent of the men said the same (some fear - 29%/lot of fear - 3%).

Table 3.6: Public's level of fear to participate in resolving problems in your community (Q-30a, Base 6263) BY GENDER

Column percents	Male (%)	Female (%)
No fear	67	51
Some fear	29	35
A lot of fear	3	9

Fifty-three percent of the respondents mentioned that they would participate in a national election with no fear while another 33 percent mentioned that they would do it with some fear.

The third activity asked in the series was "Participating in a peaceful demonstration." Public's reaction in this matter is found to be divided. Thirty-seven percent of the respondents mentioned that they would participate in this activity with some fear while another 34 percent mentioned that they would do it with no fear. A significant proportion of 24 percent mentioned that they would do it with a lot of fear.

The gender differences were more pronounced on this question. Twenty-seven percent of the women said that they would have no fear in participating in peaceful demonstrations while 41 percent of the men said the same. Twenty-nine percent of the women said they would participate in demonstrations with a lot of fear as opposed to 18 percent of the men.

Table 3.7: Public's level of fear to participate in a peaceful demonstration (Q-30c, Base 6263) BY GENDER

Column percents	Male (%)	Female (%)
No fear	41	27
Some fear	38	35
A lot of fear	18	29

The fourth activity asked about was "Running for a public office." Public's reaction in this matter is also found to be divided. Thirty-six percent of the respondents mentioned that they would participate in this activity with no fear while the same proportion mentioned that they would do it with some fear. A significant proportion of 20 percent mentioned that they would do it with a lot of fear.

Going by region, Central-Kabul with 54 percent and the Northern with 43 percent are the regions where relatively more people think that they would run for a public office with no fear.

Please, tell me, whether you would run for a public office with 'no fear', 'some fear' or a 'lot of fear'? (Q-30d, Base 6263)

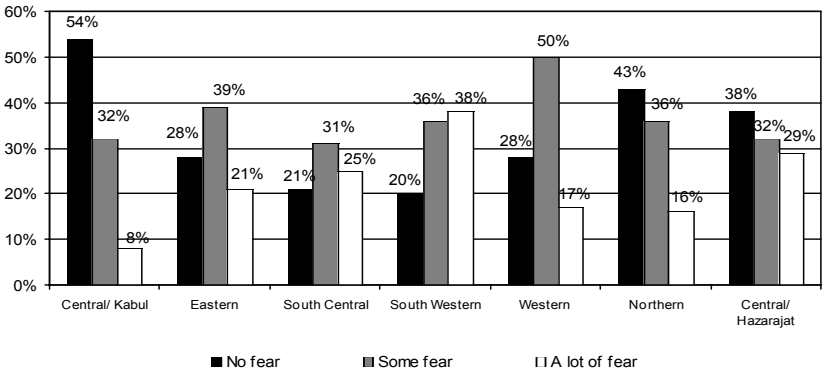

Fig 3.13

The fifth and the last activity asked in the series was "Encountering ANP officers". Forty-six percent of the respondents mentioned that they would face ANP with no fear while another 35 percent mentioned that they would do it with some fear.

Among the various types of activities, associational activities (like participating in a peaceful demonstration and running a public office) seem to generate apprehension. This seems to be correlated with the fact that the security situation is identified as being problematic in comparison to last year.

4 Development and Economy

4.1 Economy of Afghan Family: Past and present

The survey asked questions about the level of prosperity of the respondents' families attempting to understand how the people compare prosperity of their families during the Taliban days and the present. Almost half of the people think that their families are more prosperous today than they were during the Taliban regime. However, more than one-fourth (28%) of the people think it the other way around i.e., they are less prosperous today.

Those who say that they are more prosperous today than they were under the Taliban regime in 2007 is less than what was reported in 2006 (i.e., 49 percent in 2007 as compared to 54 percent in 2006).

Now I would like to ask you a few questions about the economy of Afghanistan. If you think about your family, would you say that today your family is more prosperous, less prosperous, or about as prosperous as under the Taliban government? (Q-36, Base 6263) COMPARISON WITH 2006

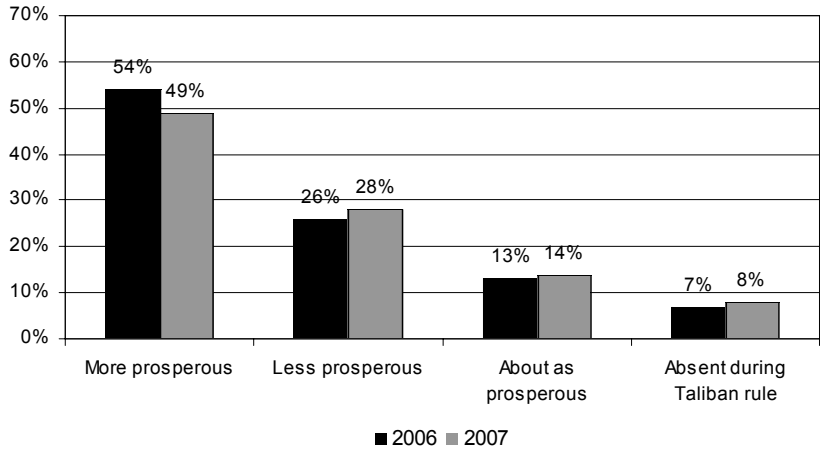

Fig 4.1

People's view in this regard differs in terms of their ethnic identity. Compared to the national average, less number of Pashtuns think that they are more prosperous today than they were during the Taliban days.

Now I would like to ask you a few questions about the economy of Afghanistan. If you think about your family, would you say that today your family is more prosperous, less prosperous, or about as prosperous as under the Taliban government? (Q-36, Base 6263) BY ETHNICTY

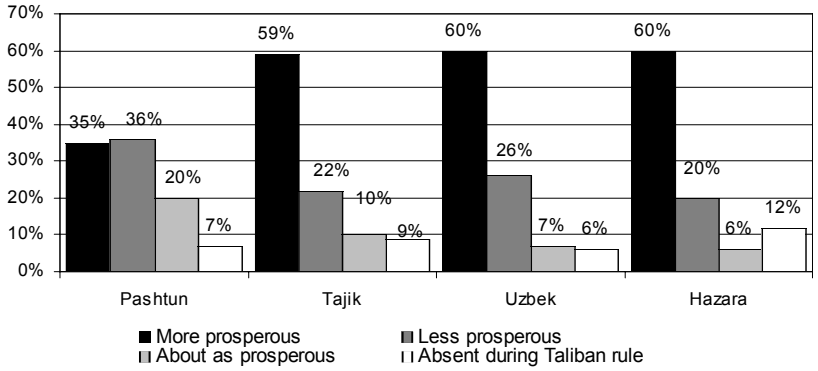

Fig 4.2

Moreover, this also has a relationship with regions. In the seven regions, less number of people living in South-Central and South-Western regions think that they are more prosperous today than they were during the Taliban regime.

Now I would like to ask you a few questions about the economy of Afghanistan. If you think about your family, would you say that today your family is more prosperous, less prosperous, or about as prosperous as under the Taliban government? (Q-36, Base 6263) BY REGION

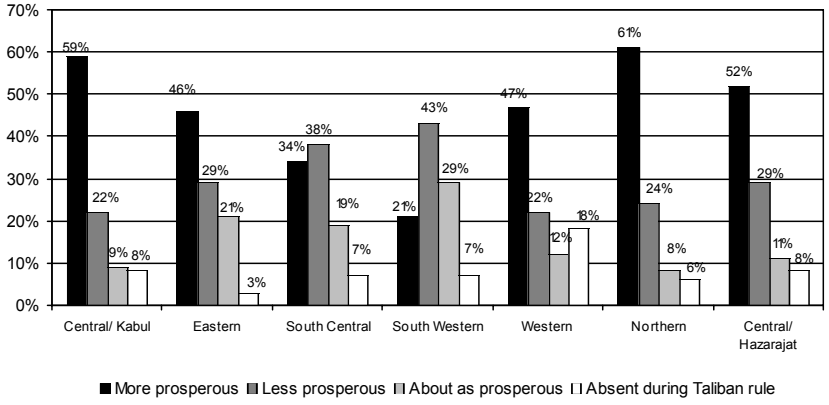

Fig 4.3

The survey attempted to understand how the average Afghan evaluates the prosperity of his or her family even further back to the Soviet occupation period. Forty five percent mentioned that their family is more prosperous now than in the period of the Soviet occupation while another 26 percent mentioned that they are less prosperous.

Now, going even farther back to the period of the Soviet occupation, if you think about your family then and now, would you say that today your family is more prosperous, less prosperous, or about as prosperous as under the Soviet occupation government? (Q-37, Base 6263)

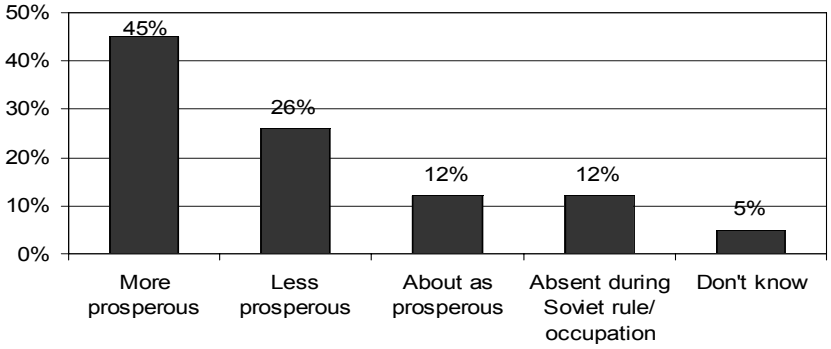

Fig 4.4

4.2 Important development issues

The survey endeavoured to rank how the public prioritizes development needs mainly roads, power, water, health care and education at present. Respondents were asked to rank the aforementioned issues in order of priority whereby the most important would be ranked '1', the next important as '2' and so on, up to the least important. However, for analytical purposes, this has been converted out of 100 in the reverse order (i.e., most important 100, next important = 75 etc. to least important = 0).

The survey results show that Afghan people - at an aggregate national level - rank the importance of roads as the top-most priority with 51.0 magnitudes followed by water (50.8), power (50.5), education (49.1) and health care (48.6). One needs to note the fact that that the differences in these five areas of priority are not substantial and the difference in each of these five areas are only a few points.

Table 4.1: Importance of various development issues in score (Q-14 a-e, Base 6263)

Development Issue	All	Rural	Urban
Importance of roads	51.0	52.9	44.2
Importance of water	50.8	49.5	55.5
Importance of power	50.5	50.4	51.0
Importance of education	49.1	48.5	51.0
Importance of health care	48.6	48.7	48.2

Rural-urban settlement pattern has an influence in the public's priority order with respect to these five development needs. Urban dwellers rank the importance of water as the top-most priority with 55.5 score while rural dwellers rank the importance of roads as the top-most priority with 52.9 score.

Table 4.2: Importance of various development issues (in scores)
(Q-14 a-e, Base 6263)

	Central /Kabul	Eastern	South Central	South Western	Western	Northern	Central/ Hazarajat
Base: All respondents	1171	608	908	576	720	1810	470
Average importance of Roads	46.5	57.9	51.0	39.4	38.1	55.7	69.4
Average importance of Power	50.3	64.1	41.6	53.7	41.5	56.2	38.9
Average importance of Water	52.2	46.5	49.7	49.9	55.3	54.6	34.8
Average importance of Health care	49.3	42.0	55.3	56.9	52.2	43.6	45.8
Average importance of Education	51.7	39.4	52.4	50.1	62.9	40.0	61.1

The survey then asked the respondents a series of questions related to facilities and their access to them. It began with electricity.

When asked about the kinds of electricity supply in the houses where they live, 41 percent said that there is no electricity in their houses. Those saying personal generator, state electricity provider and public/shared use generator were 23, 22 and 11 percent respectively. However, the regularity of the supplied electricity was not asked when administering the questionnaire.

At this house where you live, which of the following kinds of electricity supply do you have? (Q-38, Base 6263) URBAN VERSUS RURAL

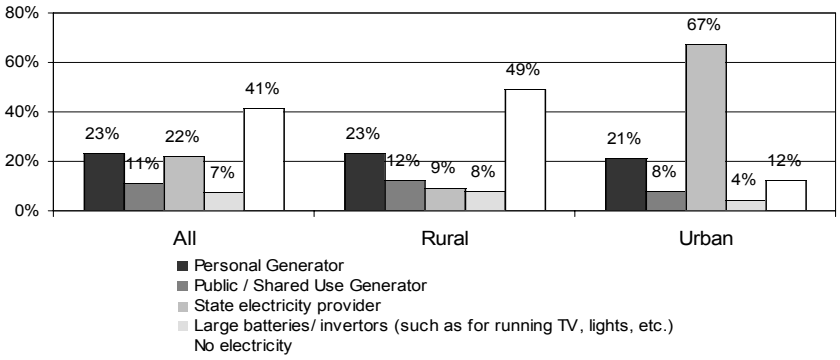

Fig 4.5

Kinds of electricity supplied vary significantly by rural-urban settlement pattern. Half of the houses in rural area have no electricity at all while two-thirds of the houses in urban areas have access to electricity provided by the state.

The survey endeavoured to document the economic situation of the Afghan people at household level in more detail by comparing their household situation today with

[1]It may indeed be natural for urban dwellers to prioritize water since as urbanization increases so does the per capita consumption of water.

that of two years back. The household situation was assessed under various headings. From the responses what becomes evident is that accessibility to schools has improved - 51 percent of the people say so. Situation of the health of the family members has gotten better for 43 percent of the people while the financial situation of the household has gotten better for 39 percent of the people. Quality of the food diet has gotten better for 32 percent of the people while physical conditions of the house has gotten better for 29 percent of the people. Fewer people think that the situation has gotten better as far as access to the market, electricity supply and employment opportunities are concerned.

Table 4.3: Percentage of the people whose situation has gotten better compared to two years ago in various headings (Q-39 a&h, Base 6263)

	Better (%)
Access to schools	51
Health well-being of your family members	43
Financial well-being of your household	39
Quality of your food diet	32
Physical conditions of your house/dwelling	29
Availability of products in the market	25
Electricity supply	18
Employment opportunities	16

There is considerable regional variation in the access to education, health and food compared to two years ago. While the eastern region reported the greatest increase in access to schools with 69 percent, well above the national average of 51 percent, the lowest increase in access to schools was in the South Western region (20%) followed by the Central Hazarajat region (25%).

Access to health was lowest in the Central Hazarajat and South Western regions (both were 30%), 13 percent below the national average. The highest access to health was reported from the Central Kabul region where it was 50 percent. The quality of food diet was better for only 18 percent in the South Western region compared to 38 percent in the North and 37 percent in the Eastern region.

Table 4.4: Regional comparison of three indicators in which situation of people has gotten better compared to two years ago (Q-39)

	Central / Kabul (%)	**Eastern (%)**	**South Central (%)**	**South Western (%)**	**Western (%)**	**Northern (%)**	**Central/ Hazarajat (%)**
Access to schools	59	69	50	20	40	58	25
Health well-being of your family members	50	46	47	30	27	48	30
Quality of your food diet	33	37	27	18	27	38	28

4.3 Programs under foreign aid: Public's knowledge

Nowadays, there are a number of programs and activities underway in Afghanistan supported by foreign donor agencies. In this context, the survey sought to gauge the common Afghan's knowledge about the implementation of development programs in their area. All respondents were asked whether they knew of or had heard of any project or program, implemented with foreign aid in their area or district in the last one year. Under this question, a list of fields was given in which 13 areas were mentioned. From the responses what becomes evident is that education (reconstruction/opening of schools, more teachers etc.) is the area of which people know of or have heard of the most (59%). Reconstruction/building of roads, bridges comes next with 56 percent of respondents reporting hearing about it. Healthcare is another field about which 45 percent of the Afghan people know or have heard. Likewise a significant number of the people (40%) mentioned that they have heard about programs of drinking water supply. The survey also reveals that 11 percent of Afghan people do not know of or have not heard of any of the development fields mentioned in the list.

Table 4.5: Percentage of the people who knew of or heard of any project or program in various development fields implemented with foreign aids in their localities (Q-34 a-m, Base 6263)

Development Field	Know of/ Hear of (%)
Education (reconstruction/opening of school, more teachers etc.)	59
Reconstruction/ building of roads, bridges	56
Healthcare (primary health centre, regular visits of doctors, etc.)	45
Water supply for drinking	40
De-mining	37
Demilitarization / disarmament	34
Building new mosques	28
Water supply for irrigation	25
Humanitarian programs - help in food, medicines, shelter, production materials etc.	23
Electricity supply	21
Reconstruction/programs in agriculture	21
Reconstruction/programs in industry	11
None	11

The trend for 2007 is similar to the 2006 in that education and reconstruction topped the list with 59 and 56 percent respectively in both the years. However, de-militarization and de-mining have significantly dropped down this time by 18 percent and 9 percent respectively.

Speaking of the past 12 months, do you know of, hear of any project or program, implemented with the foreign aid in this, district, in the following fields? (Q-34, Base 6263)

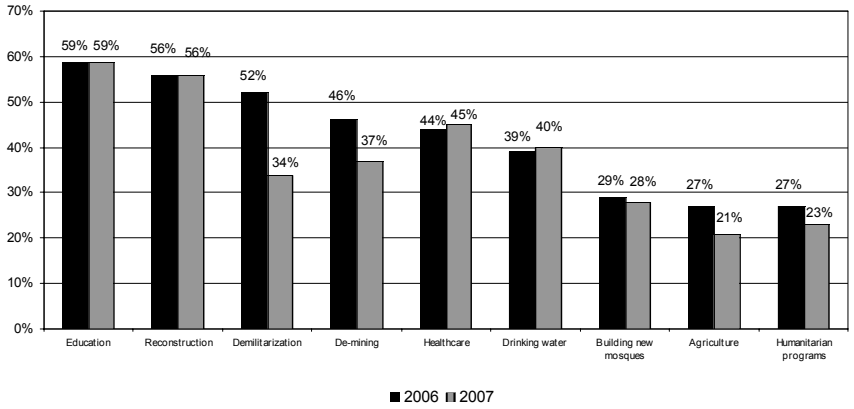

Fig 4.6

In order to understand people's awareness about the countries that have provided assistance to implement the various programs listed above; the respondents were asked to indicate which country they think has provided the most aid for the projects in their district. Most people (44%) mentioned the USA followed by Japan (10%) and Germany (8%).

Which country do you think has provided the most aid for the projects you mentioned to have been implemented in this area, district? (Q-35a, Base 6263)

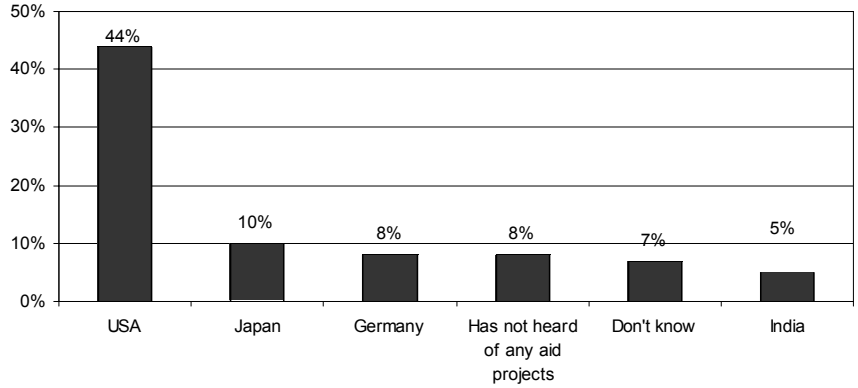

Fig 4.7

The respondents were asked to mention other countries which, they think, have provided aid for the projects in their areas or districts. Respondents were allowed to mention more than one country. One-fourth of the people (25%) mentioned Japan followed by Germany (23%), USA (21%) and India (19%).

Which other countries have provided aid for the projects in your area, district? (Q-35b, Base 6263)

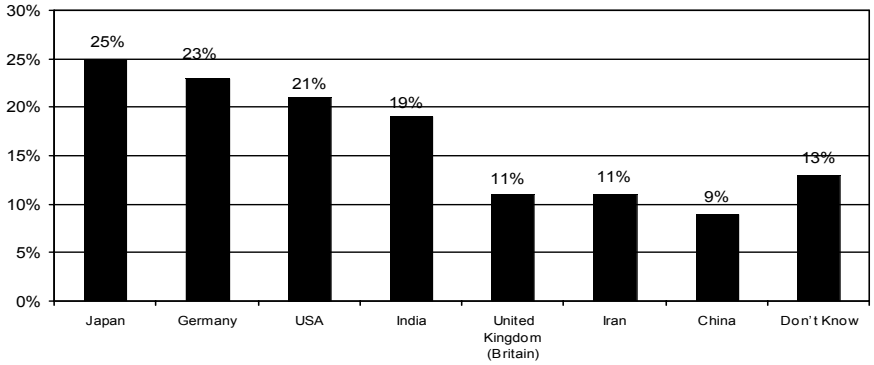

Fig 4.8

While comparing the 2006 and 2007 data, a distinct pattern becomes discernable since the percentage has decreased compared to last year. In response to the first question, those who had mentioned USA were 48 percent while it is 44 percent this year. Likewise, those who mentioned Japan, Germany and India in response to the second question were 31, 27 and 26 percent last year, but have dropped to 25, 23 and 19 percent respectively.

4.4 Privatization in eyes of the people

The survey asked several questions pertaining to privatization. The purpose was to document the orientation of the common Afghan towards privatization. When asked if they have ever heard of the process called privatization, more than half of the people (55%) mentioned in the negative while 41 percent gave an affirmative reply.

Have you ever heard of the process called "privatization"? (Q-40, Base 6263)

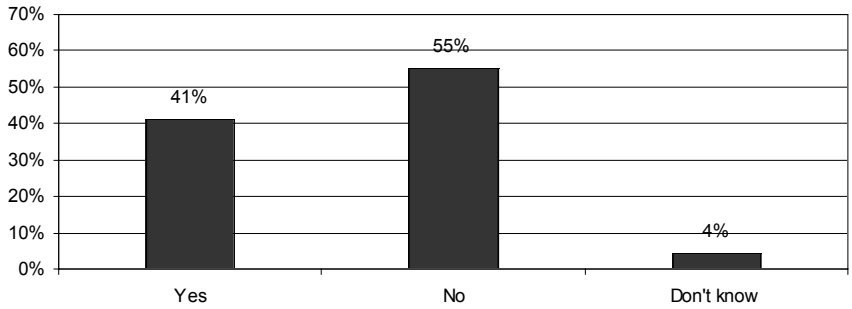

Fig 4.9

Education exerts an influence on this matter. The higher the educational level, the more likely he or she is to have heard about privatization.

Have you ever heard of the process called "privatization"? (Q-40, Base 3962) BY EDUCATION

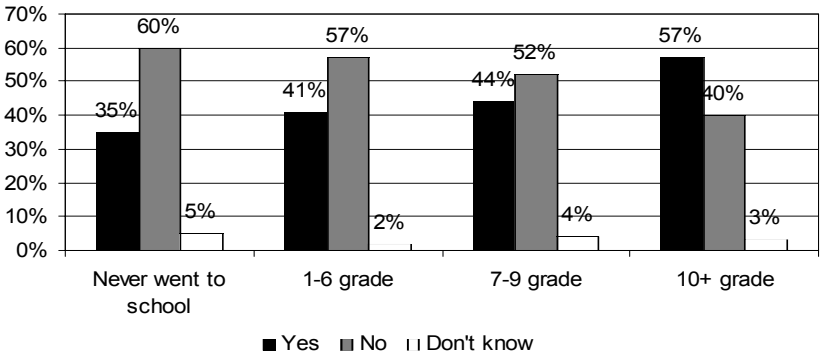

Fig 4.10

During the interview, respondents were briefly explained about privatization along the following lines: "Privatization means the selling of state owned business to private individuals." After explaining what privatization was, the respondents were asked whether they think privatization is a good idea or bad idea for Afghanistan. Public's view in this regard is found to be divided. A somewhat equal proportion (41 percent each) of Afghan people think that it is a good idea and a bad idea. Some 17 percent professed ignorance in this matter.

Privatization means the selling of state owned businesses to private individuals. Do you think privatization is a good idea or is a bad idea for Afghanistan? (Q-41, Base 6263)

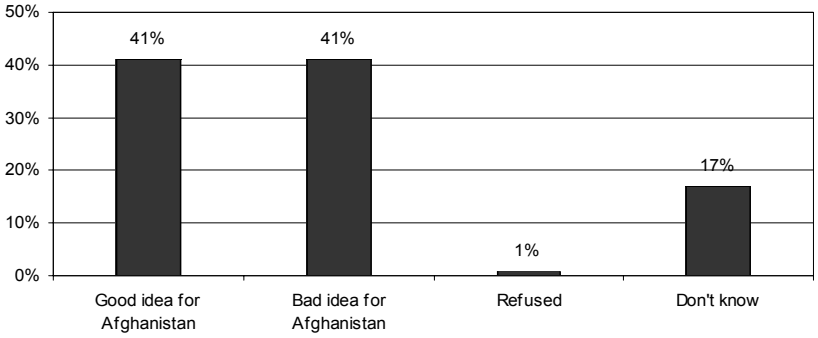

Fig 4.11

Compared to the 2006 survey, the number of those who are not positively oriented towards privatization has significantly increased. If in 2006, some 33 percent had thought that it was a bad idea, today some 41 percent think so. However, those who were positive remains almost the same as last year.

Privatization means the selling of state owned businesses to private individuals. Do you think privatization is a good idea or is a bad idea for Afghanistan? (Q-41, Base 6263) COMPARSON WITH 2006

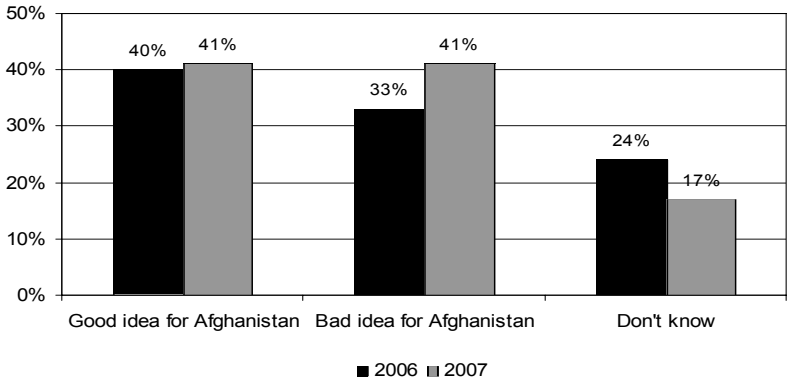

Fig 4.12

The public view on privatization varies by region. People living in Central-Kabul and Northern regions are equally divided while most of the people in Eastern and Western think it is a good idea. People in South Central and South Western regions think it is a bad idea. A relatively high proportion of people in Central-Hazarajat say they do not know.

Privatization means the selling of state owned businesses to private individuals. Do you think privatization is a good idea or is a bad idea for Afghanistan? (Q-41, Base 6263) BY REGION

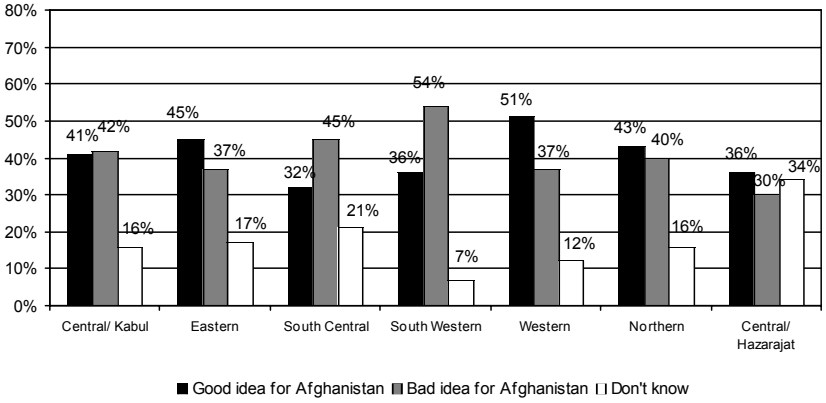

Fig 4.13

A follow-up question was asked to those respondents who mentioned that it is a good idea (i.e., 41 percent of the total respondents) to further probe for the reason why they thought so. Respondents were allowed to mention more than one reason. About 47 percent of them mentioned that it is a good idea because it improves the economic situation of the people while some 28 percent think so because it

helps reconstruction of Afghanistan. Twenty-six percent like idea of privatization because they think that it will pave the ground for investment.

Table 4.6: Why do you say that privatization is a good idea?
(Q-42, Base 2559)

	(%)
Privatization improves economic situation of the people	47
Privatization helps reconstruction of Afghanistan	28
Privatization paves ground for investments	26
Privatization reduces corruption	22
Privatization improves infrastructure	17
Privatization promotes competition	13
It improves economic capabilities/leverage of the government	12
Privatization helps education system	12
It will provide better business environment in the country	11
Products made by private business are of higher quality	6
Privatization creates job opportunities	2

The respondents who were negative towards privatization were asked to further indicate why they felt that privatization is a bad idea. This was asked from those respondents who mentioned that it is a bad idea (i.e., 41 percent of the total respondents) and respondents were allowed to specify more than one reason. Forty-four percent mentioned that it is a bad idea because it will reduce job opportunities while some 41 percent thought so because it would increase prices. Thirty-five percent do not like the idea of privatization because they think that the rich people will become richer and the poor will become poorer. A significant proportion of 27 percent is against the idea because they think that it is in the interest of few individuals, not of the Afghan society as a whole.

Table 4.7: Why do you say that privatization is a bad idea?
(Q-43, *Base* 2582)

	(%)
Privatization will reduce job opportunities	44
Privatization will increase prices	41
The rich will become richer and the poor poorer	35
It is in the interest of few individuals, not the society	27
It will hurt the economy/economic leverage of the government	18
The current situation is not favourable for privatization	16
Privatization will create ethnic discrimination	12

5 Local Government

5.1 Public's engagement with MPs

Provincial administration at the sub-national level in Afghanistan, includes, amongst others, the provincial governor, elected Provincial Council (PC), Community Development Council (CDC) and municipal authority. The survey had asked the people of Afghanistan how they perceive and evaluate these local government bodies. It had begun with people's assessment of Members of Parliament (MP).

An overwhelming majority (89%) said that they have never contacted their MP for help in solving any of their personal or local problems. This reveals that very few people have a tendency to contact elected representatives to the National Assembly for help. The main reason for that could be a lack of information about the role of national assembly and also the individual's power to influence a change. The number of people who contacted their MPs had dropped slightly in comparison with 2006.

Have you ever contacted your MP for help in solving any of your personal or local problems? (Q-76, Base 6263)

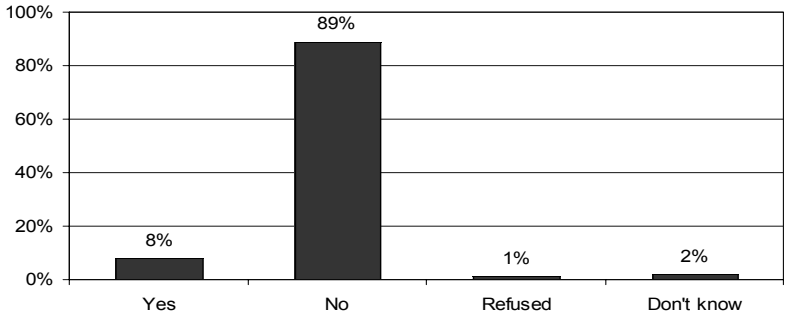

Fig 5.1

Have you ever contacted your MP for help in solving any of your personal or local problems? (Q-76, Base 6263) COMPARISON WITH 2006

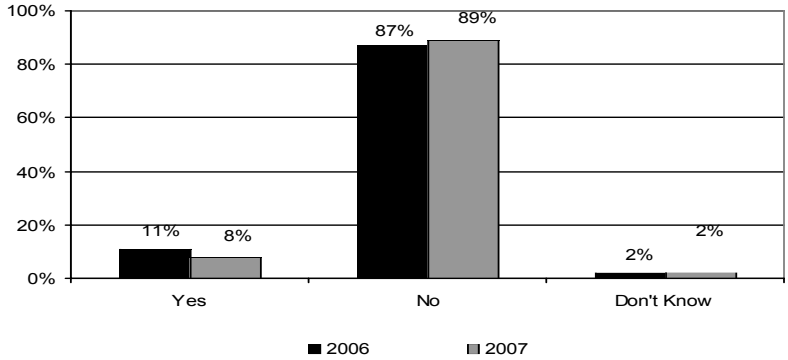

Fig. 5.2

Those respondents who mentioned that they had contacted their MPs for help in solving any of their personal or local problems (i.e., 8 percent of the total respondents) were asked about the kind of a problem for which they contacted the MP. Just above one-fourth of them mentioned that they had contacted MPs to get help for water and electricity in their area while another 18 percent did that to complain about the lack of teachers at schools. A significant proportion, 16 percent, contacted their MPs to get help for building roads and bridges. The survey shows that MPs are also contacted to help the constituents with security problems (10%) and disputes over land (6%).

For what kind of a problem did you contact the MP? (Q-77, Base 499)

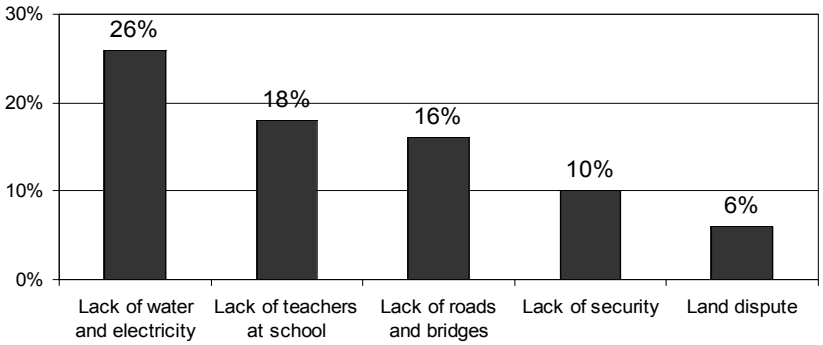

Fig 5.3

5.2 Provincial Government

During the past few years various activities of the provincial government have been underway. The survey asked the Afghan people about their views on different facets of the provincial government. It began with their assessment of the performance of the provincial government. A fourth of the people think that the provincial government is doing a very good job while more than half of the people think that it is doing a somewhat good job.

Turning to your Provincial Government, do you think that overall it is doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job? (Q-66a, Base 6263)

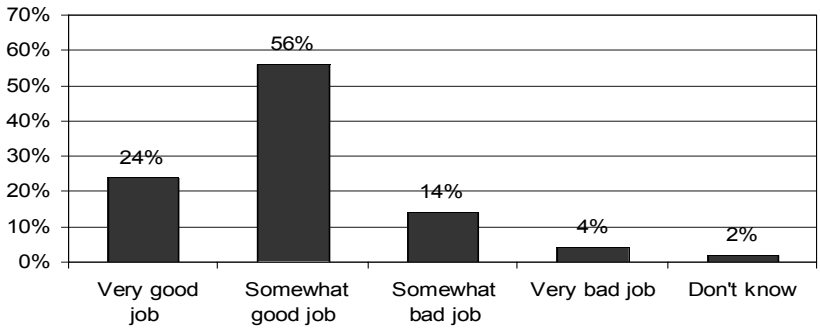

Fig 5.4

Public's assessment of the provincial government varies by region. Even though most of the people living in all regions have a positive assessment, thinking that the government is doing a somewhat good job, its degree varies across the seven regions. About one-third of the people in Eastern and South-Western regions think that the government is doing a very good job and about one-fourth of the people in Central-Kabul, South-Central and Northern regions think so. However, only a small number of people in Western and Central-Hazarajat agree that the government is doing a very good job. In the Western region though, a large majority of people think that the government is doing a somewhat good job.

Turning to your Provincial Government, do you think that overall it is doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job? (Q-66a, Base 6263) BY REGION

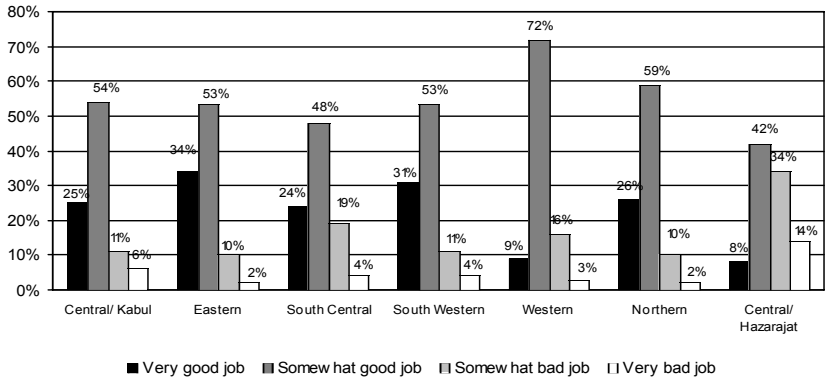

Fig 5.5

When asked about the interaction of constituents with Provincial Councils (PCs) on issues of personal or local interest, an overwhelming majority of 87 percent mentioned that they did not contact their PC. Only 11 percent said that they have contacted them.

Now let's talk about Provincial Councils. Have you ever contacted a representative on the Provincial Council for help in solving any of your personal or local problems? (Q-78, Base 6263)

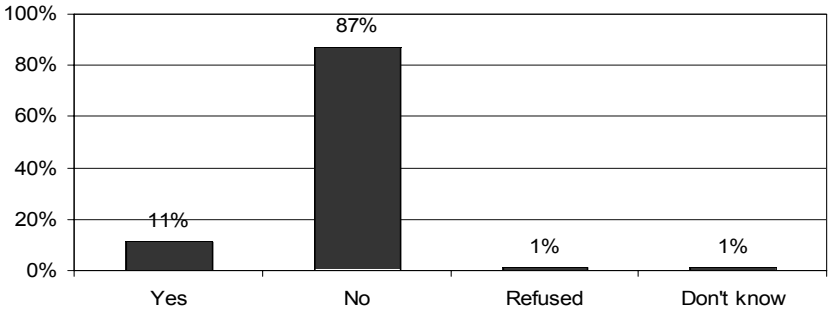

Fig 5.6

The respondents who mentioned that they have contacted representatives on the Provincial Council for help in solving personal or local problems (i.e., 11 percent of the total respondents) were asked "What kind of problem was it?". The major reasons for contacting the Provincial Councils were the same as the reasons for contacting the MPs. The major two issues that the people approached PC to help them solve, were problems related to electricity and water (22%) and roads and bridges (15%). Dispute over land (11%), solving security (11%) and school building (10%) were other areas for which the PC was approached to help people. The survey found that very few people contacted PCs for issues related to the health sector and health services (only 7 percent of the respondents).

What kind of a problem was it? (Q-79, Base 683)

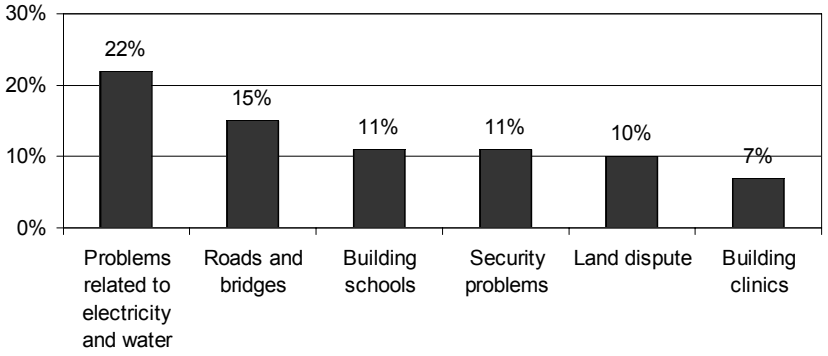

Fig 5.7

The public response to this question varies across regions. Most of the people in South-Western and Central-Hazarajat regions go to the Councils for security problems while most of the people in South-Central region go there for getting help to build schools and clinics. Other regions follow the national trend.

What kind of a problem was it? - Top four problems (Q-79, Base 683) BY REGION

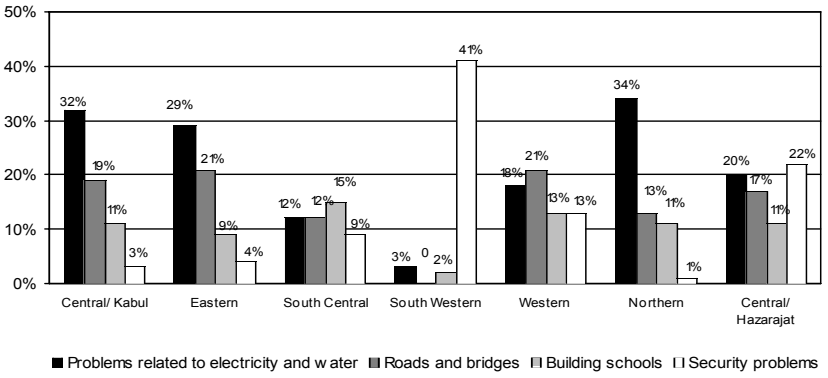

Fig 5.8

5.3 Community Development Council

Community Development Councils were originally established as part of the National Solidarity Program and members of the Council are representatives of various groups in communities.

The CDCs are expected to become elected community forums for planning development programs based on input through grassroots level community participation, increase social capital in the country by transferring project design, project implementation, project monitoring and financial management capacities from the NGO sector to the public sector.

Though they are yet to realize their full potential and be empowered, they are envisoned as the very basic building blocks of a truly democratic society by introducing the concept of free and fair election at the village level. In this context, the survey attempted to gauge the public's awareness and views about these Councils.

Before asking a question, respondents were briefly explained about the CDC and then asked whether they aware of such institutions in their neighbourhood/settlement. About two-third of the people mentioned that they are not aware of Councils in the neighbourhood and settlement while another one-third mentioned that they are aware of it.

Community Development Councils have been established in Afghanistan as part of the National Solidarity Program and members of the Council are representatives of various groups in your community. Tell me, are you aware of such institution called Community Development Council formed in your neighbourhood/settlement? (Q-81, Base 6263)

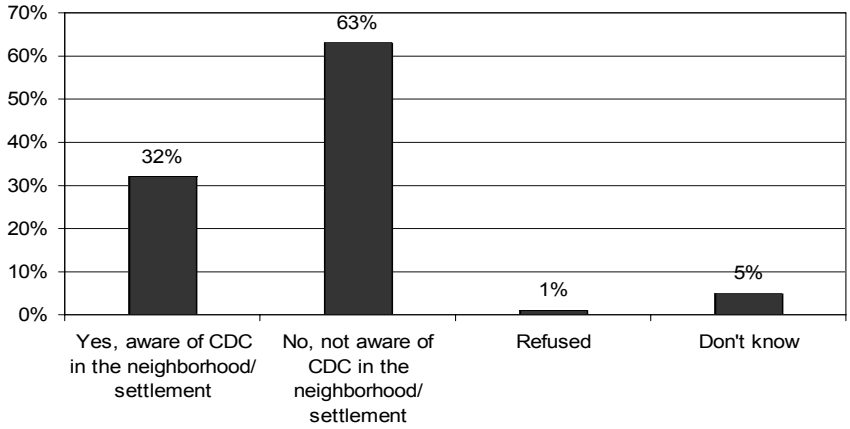

Fig 5.9

Level of public's awareness towards the Councils varies by region. Even though most of the people in all regions are not aware of this, in relative terms more people in Central-Kabul, South-Western and Central-Hazarajat are unaware of it.

Relatively more people are aware of it in the Western and the Northern regions.

… Tell me, are you aware of such institution called Community Development Council formed in your neighbourhood/settlement? (Q-81, Base 6263) BY REGION

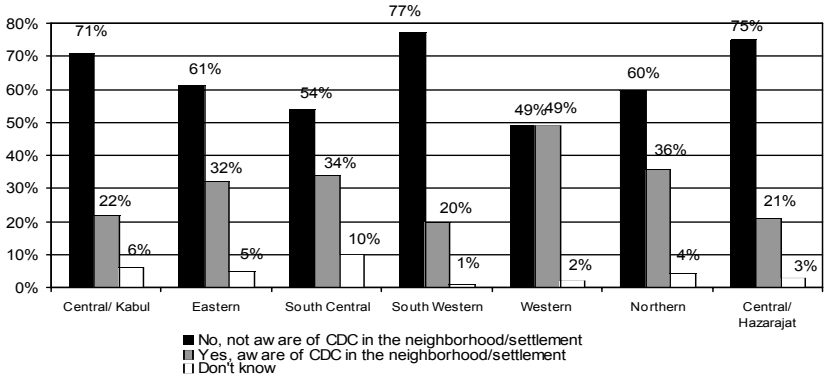

Fig 5.10

Those respondents who mentioned that they are aware of the Council in their neighbourhoods (i.e., 32% of the total respondents) were also asked to indicate which groups are members of the CDCs in their localities. Groups mentioned in a list were read to the respondents and the respondents were asked to react if those mentioned in the list are members of the Council. The highest number of respondents (78%) thought that there was a representation of elders of the local Shura/Jirga in the Community Development Council. This was followed by those who said local malik/khan (71%), mullah (55%) and local teachers/doctors (51%). Representation of women was mentioned by 30 percent of the respondents only.

Table 5.1: Percentage of the people who think that there a representation of various groups in the Council (Q-82 a-j, Base 1975)

Group	Representation (%)
Elders of the local shura/ jirga	78
Local Malik/Khan	71
Mullah	55
Local teacher/doctor	51
Ordinary farmers	46
Shopkeepers	44
Local commanders	35
Landless agricultural workers	35
Women	30
Officials from municipal/district administration	27
None of the above	1

Those respondents who mentioned that they were aware of the Councils in their neighbourhoods (i.e., 32 percent of the total respondents) were then asked to mention up to two major initiatives or projects of the Councils. Half of the respondents mentioned road construction and 30 percent mentioned drinking

water supply projects. Another 16 percent and 14 percent mentioned school rehabilitation and electricity supply projects respectively.

Which two major initiatives, projects in your neighbourhood/settlement has this Council been tasked with to implement? (Q-83a, Base 1975)

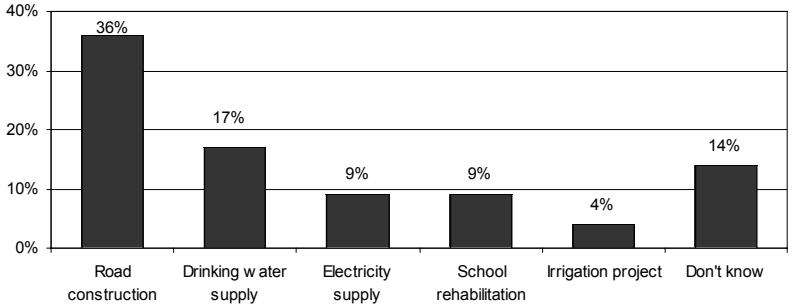

Fig 5.11

Another follow-up question was asked to the respondents who were aware of CDCs to measure their level of satisfaction with the job these Councils are doing. Just more than half of the respondents mentioned that they were somewhat satisfied while another one-third (33%) mentioned that they are very satisfied. Level of dissatisfaction was significantly lower (9%) as compared to the very satisfied and somewhat satisfied numbers.

How satisfied are you with the job this Community Development Council is doing? (Q-84, Base 1975)

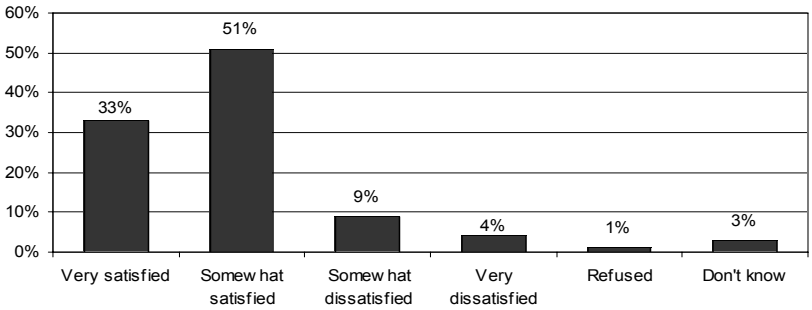

Fig 5.12

Likewise another follow-up question was asked to measure perceptions on the extent of capability of the councils to represent people's interests before the Provincial authorities. The question was asked only to those respondents who mentioned that they are aware of the Council in their neighbourhoods (i.e., 32 percent of the total respondents). A little more than half of the people (53%) think that the Council is somewhat capable while another one-third (31%)

think that it is very capable. Still another 11 percent of people were doubtful as they thought that the CDCs are not much capable to represent their interests in front of the provincial authorities

Still speaking of the same Community Development Council, to what extent do you think this Council is capable to represent your interests before the Provincial authorities? (Q-85a, Base 1975)

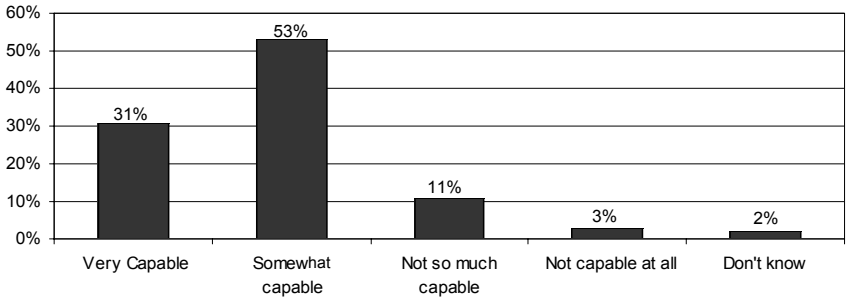

Fig 5.13

Going by region, it is found that most of the people in Eastern and South-Central regions think that the Councils are very capable of representing their interests before the Provincial authorities while people in other regions follow the national average. People of Central Hazarajat have a somewhat poor assessment of the Council.

Still speaking of the same Community Development Council, to what extent do you think this Council is capable to represent your interests before the Provincial authorities? (Q-85a, Base 1975) BY REGION

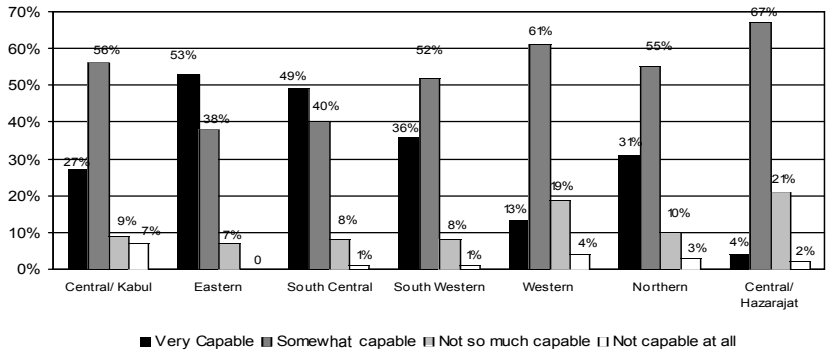

Fig 5.14

Similar type of a follow-up question but with respect to the Government of Afghanistan was again asked to those respondents who mentioned that they are aware of the Council in their neighbourhoods (i.e., 32 percent of the total respondents). Forty-three percent of the people think that the Council is somewhat capable while another one-fourth (24%) think that it is very capable.

Another 21 percent think that the Councils are not very capable of representing their interests before the government.

Still speaking of the same Community Development Council, to what extent do you think this Council is capable to represent your interests before the Government of Afghanistan? (Q-85b, Base 1975)

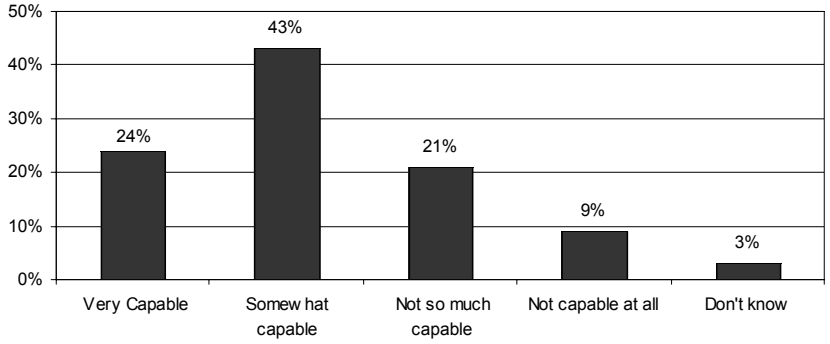

Fig 5.15

Going by region, Central-Hazarajat is the only region where most of the people think that the councils are either not so much capable or not capable at all to represent people's interests before the Government of Afghanistan. This is while other regions mirror the national trend.

Still speaking of the same Community Development Council, to what extent do you think this Council is capable to represent your interests before the Government of Afghanistan? (Q-85b, Base 1975) BY REGION

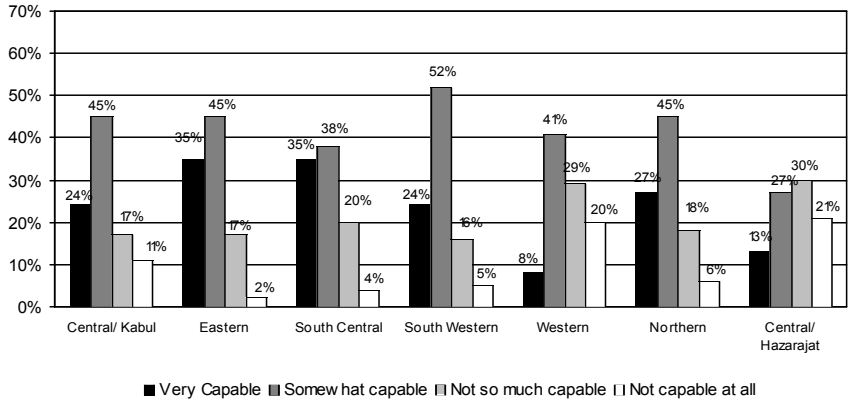

Fig 5.16

5.4 Municipal Authority

The survey then asked some questions pertaining to municipal authorities. Forty-three percent of the people think that the municipal authorities are doing a somewhat good job while another one-fourth think that they are doing a somewhat bad job. Twenty-seven percent think that municipal government in their localities do a somewhat bad job.

What do you think about the job done by your municipal authorities, do you think that overall it is doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job? (Q-66b, Base 6263)

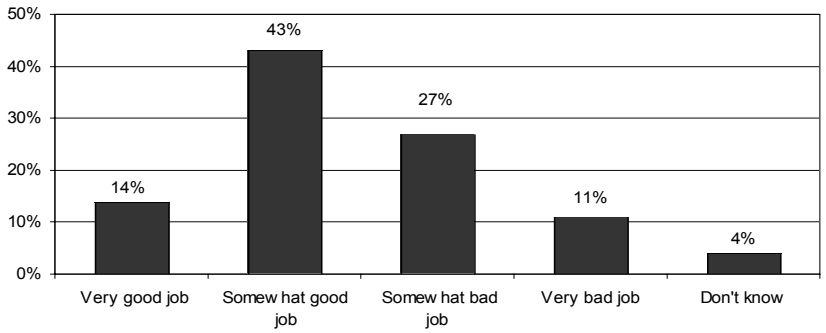

Fig 5.17

The public assessment of the municipal authority varies by region. Most of the regions assess the municipal authority's work positively except for Central-Hazarajat and Western regions.

What do you think about the job done by your municipal authorities, do you think that overall it is doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job? (Q-66b, Base 6263) BY REGION

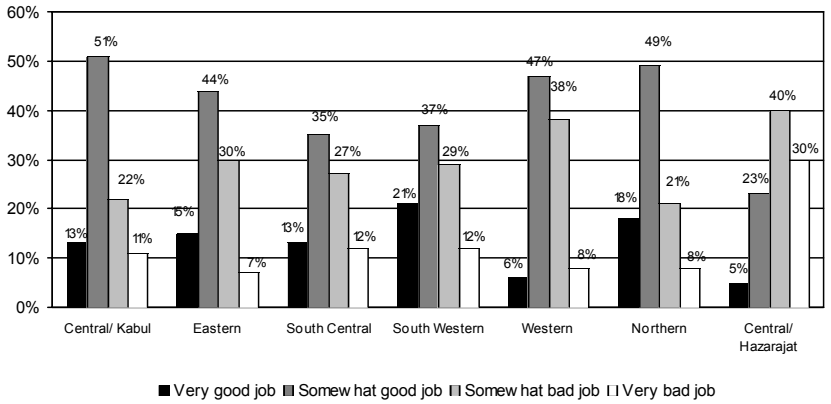

Fig 5.18

5.5 Local Government and Religious Leaders

This pertains to the relationship that should prevail between religion and politics: some argue that politics should be kept out of religion others argue that this is untenable. In this context, the survey attempted to understand the average Afghan's views about the relationship between the local government and religious leaders. Respondents were asked which statement was closer to their view: (1) Religious leaders should be consulted, or (2) Politics and religion should not mix. Most of the people (60%) opined that religious leaders should be consulted while another 36 percent mentioned that politics and religion should not mix.

This figure is similar to last year where 61 percent mentioned that religious leaders should be consulted while another 37 percent had mentioned that politics and religion should not mix.

Now switching to local government, some people say that local religious leaders should be regularly consulted on the problems facing an area while others think that politics and religion should not mix. Which is closer to your view? (Q-69, Base 6263)

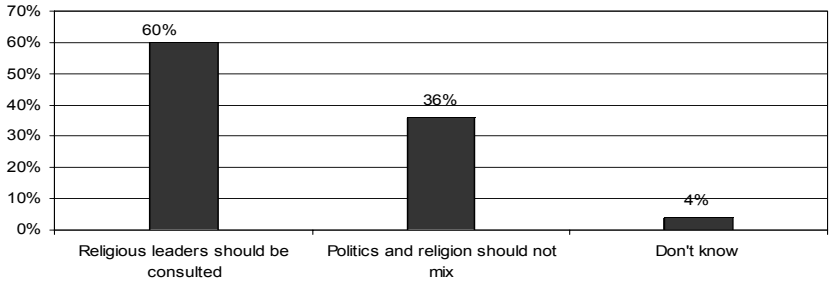

Fig 5.19

The public view in this regard varies by region. More than half of the people in Western region think that politics and religion should not mix while people are divided in the Central-Hazarajat region. Three-fourth of the people in Eastern and South-Central regions think that religious leaders should be consulted.

Now switching to local government, some people say that local religious leaders should be regularly consulted on the problems facing an area while others think that politics and religion should not mix. Which is closer to your view? (Q-69, Base 6263) BY REGION

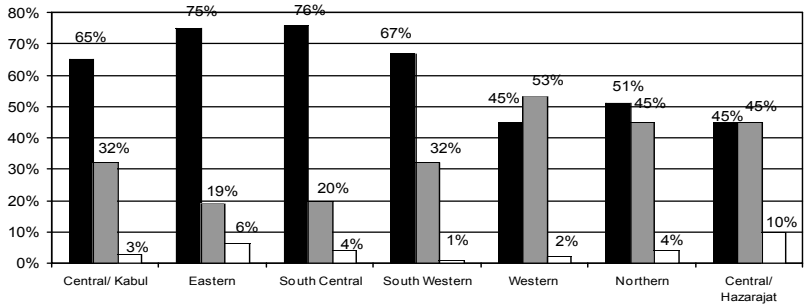

Fig 5.20

5.6 Influence of individuals on the local government

In order to understand the degree of people's confidence in their ability to influence government decisions the respondents were asked to state the level of influence they might have on government decisions. Less then one fifth (13%) said they think they have a lot of influence. Two fifth (40%) mentioned that they have some influence while some 21 percent mentioned that they have very little influence. Another 21 percent also mentioned that they cannot influence at all. This underscores the distance that ordinary Afghans perceive between themselves and local government.

How much influence do you think someone like you can have over government decisions? (Q-70, Base 6263)

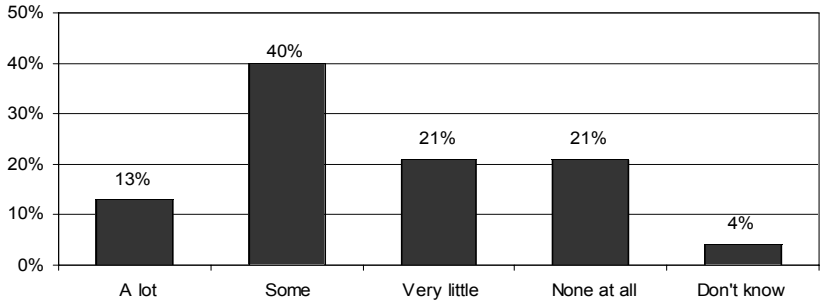

Fig 5.21

The public view in this regard varies by regions. Most of the people (44%) in Central-Hazarajat region said that they do not have influence at all. Twenty-two percent from the South Central region feel the same. Overall those in the Western (52%) and South Central (50%) regions also feel negatively and state that they have either very little or no influence at all over government decisions. Those in Central/ Kabul region (61%), Eastern (58%) and Northern (56%) are more positive and believe that they have some or even a lot of influence over government decisions.

How much influence do you think someone like you can have over government decisions? (Q-70, Base 6263) BY REGION

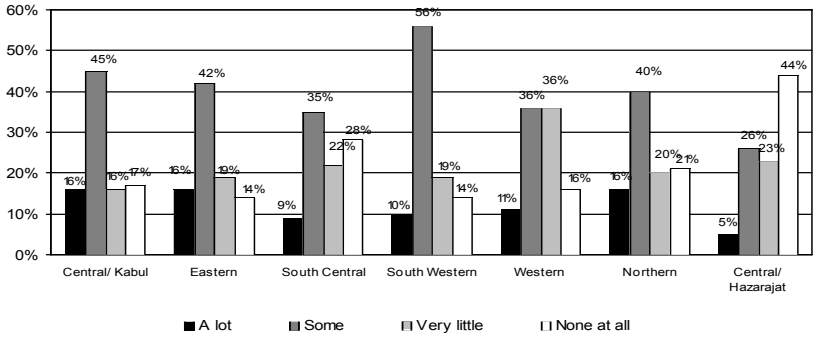

Fig 5.22

5.7 Dealing with local problems

Sometimes in a community, people face problems related to an issue that concerns everybody in their area but they cannot resolve it on their own. So they have to ask for the help of a government official or a government agency. In this context, the survey sought to assess whether people had faced such problems in the past five years. An overwhelming majority of 80 percent said 'no.' Only 16 percent said that they have had such problems.

Sometimes people and communities have problems, related to an issue that concerns everybody in their area, that they can't resolve on their own and so they have to ask for the help of a government official or a government agency. In the past 5 years, has your community had such a problem in your area that you had to ask for help or cooperation to resolve it? (Q-47, Base 6263)

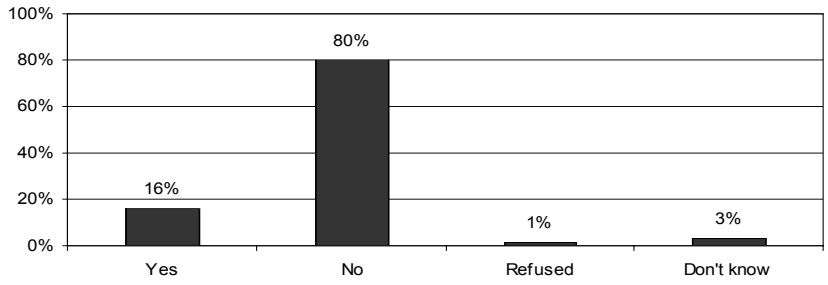

Fig 5.23

Out of the 16 percent who mentioned that they have had such problems twenty-eight percent reported that they have had disputes over land. While another 20 percent reported that they have had problems related to lack of water and electricity.

What kind of problem was/is that? (Q-48, Base 1021)

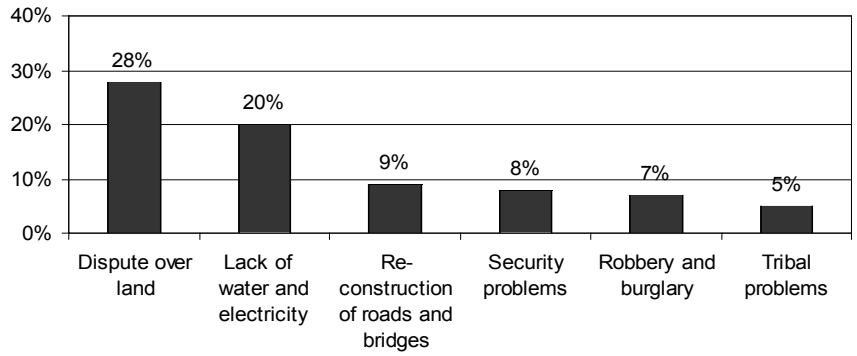

Fig 5.24

To find out where the complainants go another follow-up question was asked to those respondents who mentioned that they have had such problems (i.e., 16 percent of the total respondents). Just below half of the people (48%) had approached elders of local Shuras and Jirgas while 33 percent approached MPs. A significant number of the people (26%) approached district authorities and 24 percent had approached the Afghan National Police. Some (22%) had also approached the provincial governor or authorities to solve the problems. Afghan National Army was approached the least amongst others with only 15 percent of the respondents seeking their help to resolve local issues.

Who did you approach/ask to solve the problem? (Q-49, Base 1021)

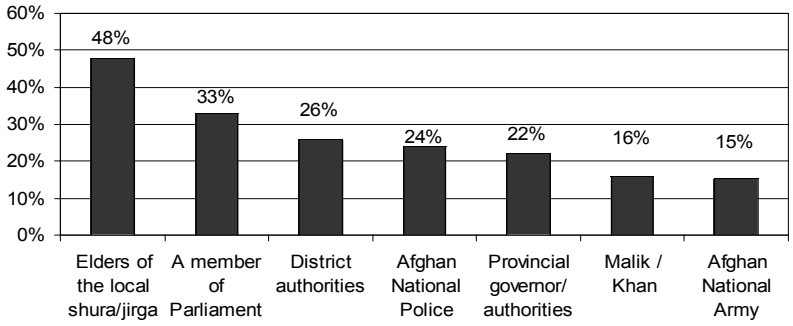

Fig 5.25

Those respondents who mentioned that they have had problems (i.e., 16 percent of the total respondents) were asked further questions to see whether their problem had been resolved or not. The survey found that the public experience on this matter is divided as just over half of the respondents (51%) said their problems were still pending resolution while 48 percent said the problem had been resolved.

Has this problem been resolved or it's still pending resolution? (Q-50, Base 1021)

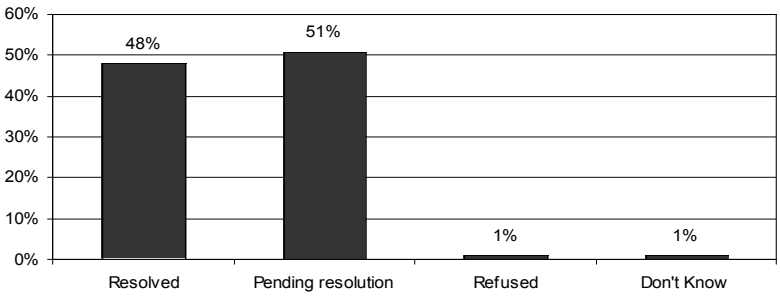

Fig 5.26

6 Judicial System

6.1 Perception towards the State Court

The survey attempted to uncover the public perception towards the state courts. During the interviews, a series of statements about the state courts were read to the respondents and they were asked to indicate whether they agree or disagree with the statements. Having access to the state courts is one important element of fair justice. The survey shows that a significant number of people interviewed (25%) strongly agreed that the state courts are accessible to them while over half of them (53%) agreed somewhat. This underlines the fact that a large number of Afghans believe that the state courts are accessible to them. This is almost equally divided across all regions and provinces except Uruzgan where there was no one who strongly agreed that the courts were accessible for them but even here the number of people who somewhat agreed was as high as 90 percent of the total respondents. But, the findings also reveal that there is a big number of people who are not happy and think that the official court system is not up to their expectations.

Table 6.1: Public's agreement or disagreement with various statements about state courts (Q-86 a-f, Base 6263)

Statement	Strongly agree (%)	Somewhat agree (%)	Somewhat disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)
State courts are accessible to me.	25	53	14	6
State courts are fair and trusted.	15	43	29	11
State courts are not corrupt compared to other options of settling a dispute.	14	42	29	11
State courts follow the local norms and values of our people.	17	40	29	11
State courts are effective at delivering justice.	19	39	28	10
State courts resolve cases timely and promptly.	17	34	29	16

On the second statement "The state courts are fair and trusted" fifteen percent of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement, forty-three percent agreed somewhat and another 40 percent disagreed (29 percent disagreed somewhat and 11 percent strongly disagreed). This means a larger number of Afghans thought positively about the existing official justice system. However, a significant number of people do not trust the official justice system. Over half of the respondents in the Central Hazarajat region (59%) and Western region (53%) disagreed with the statement.

Do you agree with "State Courts are fair and trusted"? (Q-86b, Base 6263) BY REGION

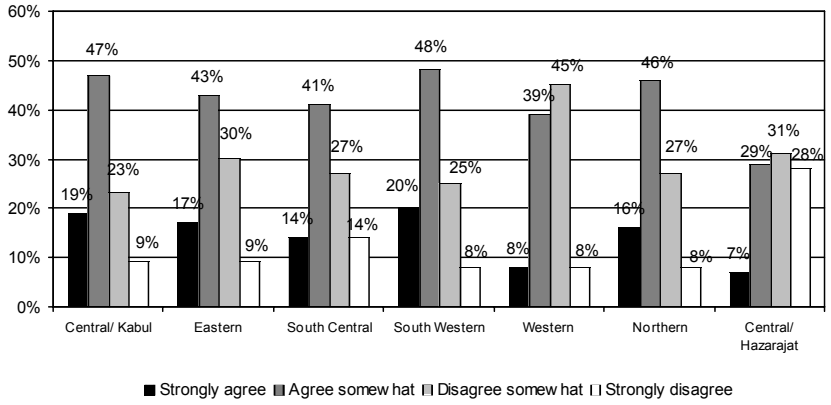

Fig 6.1

Looking at the results of the fourth statement "The state courts follow the local norms and values of our people" it is seen that the views are almost the same across the country and in keeping with the findings of the other statements mentioned above. Almost one fifth of the total respondents said they strongly agreed with the statement while 40 percent of them mentioned that they somewhat agree. Dis-aggregation of the findings in terms of regions shows that most of the people in Western and Central-Hazarajat regions disagree with the statement. While, other regions follow the national average, Central Kabul and South Western regions rank as the top ones in terms of agreeing with the statement.

Do you agree with "State Courts follow the local norms and values of our people"? (Q-86d, Base 6263) BY REGION

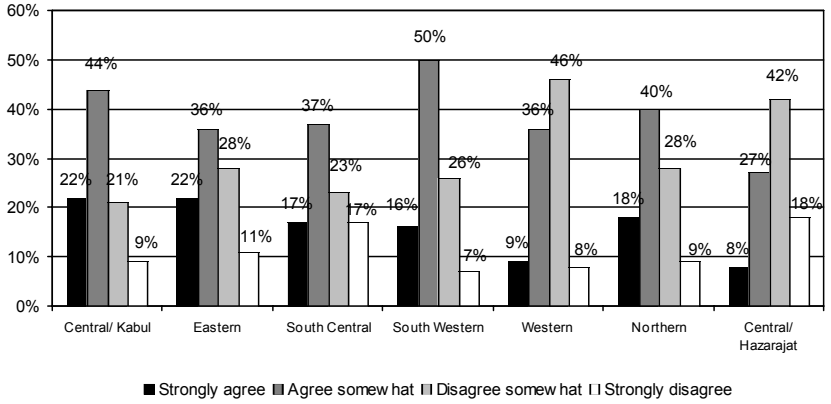

Fig 6.2

The fifth statement was "The state courts are effective at delivering justice." Nineteen percent of the people strongly agree and 39 percent somewhat agree to

the statement. However, a regional dis-aggregation shows that 59 percent in Central-Hazarajat and 43 percent in the Western region disagree. All the other regions follow the national trend.

Do you agree with "State Courts are effective at delivering justice"? (Q-86e, Base 6263) BY REGION

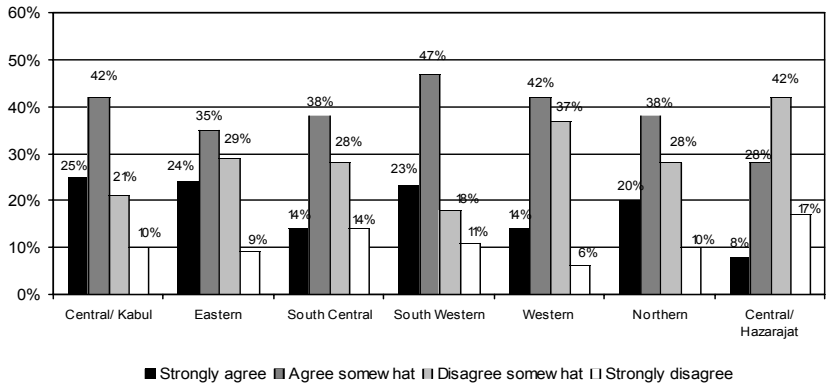

Fig 6.3

The sixth and the last statement in the series was "The state courts resolve cases timely and promptly" and in response to this question too most of the people in Western and Central-Hazarajat regions disagreed with the statement.

Do you agree with "State Courts resolve cases timely and promptly"? (Q-86f, Base 6263) BY REGION

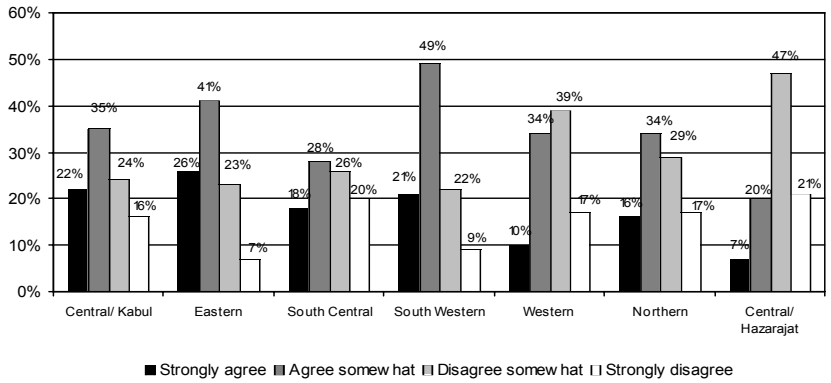

Fig 6.4

What the above account reveals is that most of the people living in the country do not put the state court system in high esteem. The functioning of the state court system is especially problematic in Central Hazarajat where a majority of people appear to be estranged from it and the Western region where a significant portion of the respondents were not as positive as the rest of the regions.

6.2 Perception towards the Local Shuras/Jirgas

Just as in the case of state court system, the survey endeavoured to uncover the public perception towards the local Shuras/Jirgas (the informal justice system). A series of statements about the Shuras/Jirgas were read to the respondents and they were asked to state whether they agree or disagree with the statements. The statements that were read-out and those who strongly agreed, agreed, somewhat disagreed and strongly disagreed is summarized in the table below.

Table 6.2: Public's agreement or disagreement with various statements about the local Shuras/Jirgas (Q-87 a-e, Base 6263)

Statement	Strongly agree (%)	Some what agree (%)	Somewhat disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)
Local jirgas, shuras are accessible to me.	38	45	10	4
Local jirgas, shuras are fair and trusted.	31	47	15	3
Local jirgas, shuras follow the local norms and values of our people.	32	44	16	4
Local jirgas, shuras are effective at delivering justice.	31	45	16	4
Local jirgas, shuras resolve cases timely and promptly.	31	41	18	6

When people's orientation towards the state court system is compared to the traditional local Shuras/Jirgas system, a certain pattern emerges. And that is that there is a higher level of trust and confidence of an ordinary Afghan towards local Shuras/Jirgas compared to the state judicial system. This underscores people's continued confidence in traditional judicial systems rather than in state courts. This becomes evident in the table below that documents the people's response in terms of statements to which they strongly agree.

Table 6.3: Percentage of the people who strongly agree with respect to various statement related to the state court and jirgas/shuras (Q-86 a-f and Q-87 a-e, Base 6263)

Statement	Agree with respect to	
	State court (%)	Jirgas/Shuras (%)
They are accessible to me	78	83
They are fair and trusted	58	78
They follow the local norms and values of our people	57	76
They are effective at delivering justice	58	76
They resolve cases timely and promptly	51	72

6.3 Orientation towards reporting crime

A question "Did you report the crime to any authority?" was asked to those respondents who mentioned that they have been victims of violence or crime (i.e., 16 percent of the total respondents). Almost two-thirds of them mentioned that they reported it while another one-third said they did not.

You said that you've been a victim of violence or criminal act in the past year. Did you report it to any authority? (Q-21, Base 983)

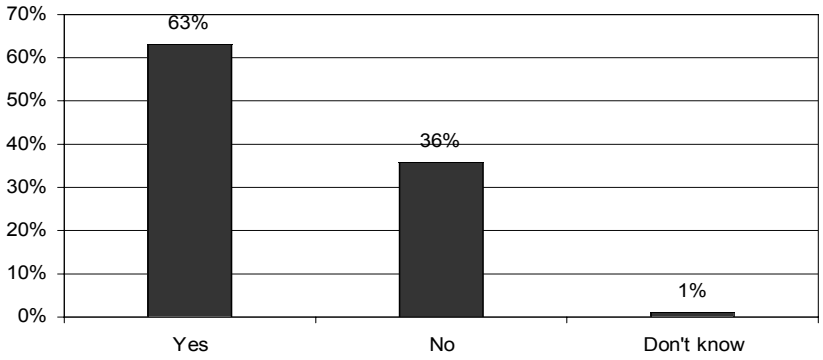

Fig 6.5

The survey found that orientation to reporting crime to an authority varies by the level of educational attainment. The higher the educational level, the more they report to an authority.

You said that you've been a victim of violence or criminal act in the past year. Did you report it to any authority? (Q-21, Base 983) BY REGION

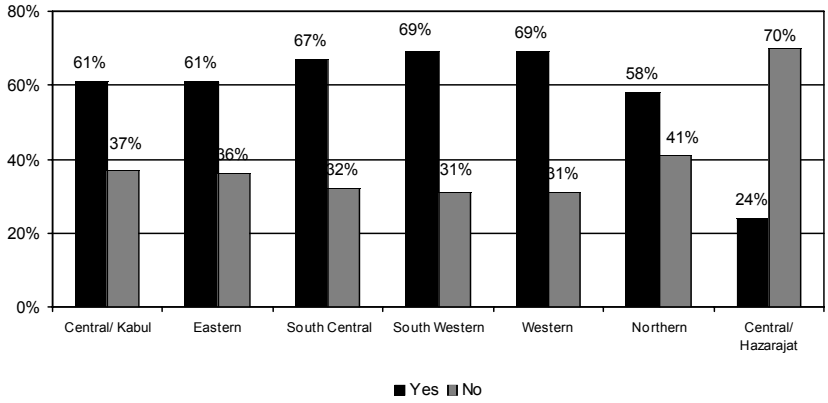

Fig.6.6

You said that you've been a victim of violence or criminal act in the past year. Did you report it to any authority? (Q-21, Base 592) BY EDUCATION

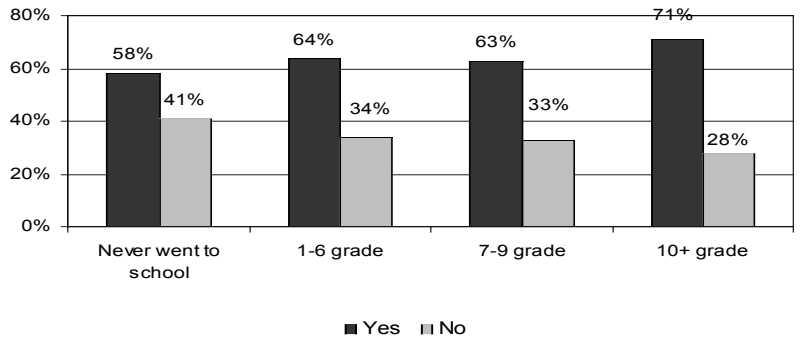

Fig 6.7

Another follow-up question was asked to those respondents who mentioned that they reported violence or crime to an authority (i.e., 10 percent of the total respondents). Respondents were allowed to mention more than one authority to which they reported. Forty-six percent of them mentioned Afghan National Police followed by district governor or woleswal (25%). Another 19 percent mentioned tribal leader or maliks as the institution to which they report the crimes.

To what agency or institution did you report the crime? (Q-22, Base 617) BY REGION

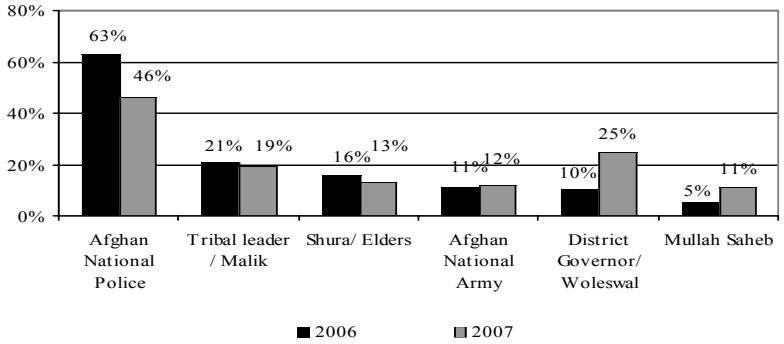

Fig. 6.8

Those respondents who mentioned that they did not report the violence or crime to any authority (i.e., 6 percent of the total respondents) were asked to identify the reason. Respondents were allowed to mention more than one reason for not reporting the crime. Thirty percent of them mentioned that they did not report because the crime was not serious. Some 23 percent mentioned that they did not report because they thought it would make no difference. Significant proportions of 17 percent and 16 percent mentioned danger or fear of retaliation and lack of trust in government as the reasons respectively.

Why didn't you report the crime? (Q-23, Base 353)

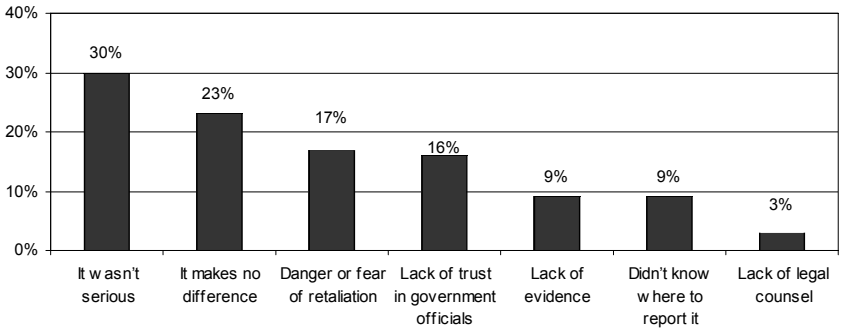

Fig 6.9

All of the respondents were asked a hypothetical question: "If you were a witness to a crime, to whom would you report it?" Respondents were allowed to mention more than one response. About half of the respondents said that they would report it to Afghan National Police followed by tribal leader or malik (19%).
A significant number of people mentioned that they would go to Afghan National Army and district governor or woleswal (18 percent for each).

If you were a witness to a crime, to whom would you report it? (Q-25, Base 6263)

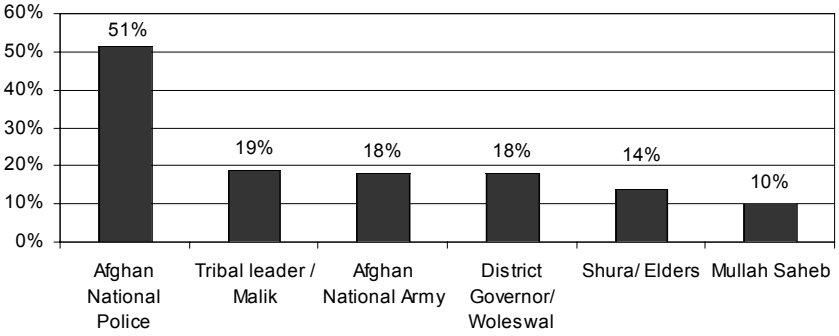

Fig 6.10

The survey attempted to measure the Afghan public's confidence towards the country's formal justice dispensing mechanism. Some 17 percent mentioned a lot of confidence, forty-three percent mentioned that they have some confidence and 26 percent mentioned little confidence. However, 11 percent still mentioned that they have no confidence at all. This reveals the low degree of confidence that an average Afghan has towards the guilty being brought to justice.

If you were a victim of violence or any criminal act, how much confidence would you have that the governmental law-enforcing organizations and judicial systems would punish the guilty party? (Q-26, Base 6263)

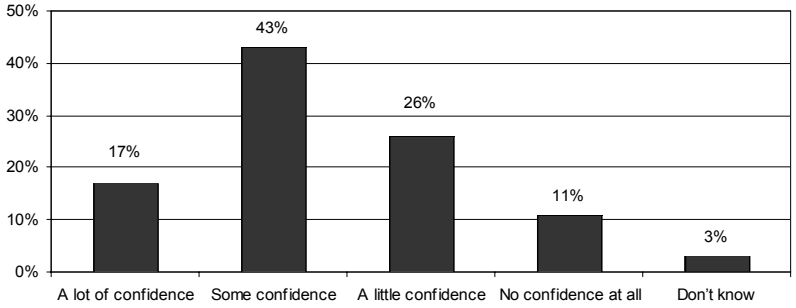

Fig 6.11

6.4 Place for Settling a Dispute

Some questions pertaining to dispute settlement were then asked. The following question was asked: "In the past two years have you had a dispute or a formal case that you could not settle with the other party and had to go to a state court or village/neighbourhood based Shuras/Jirgas to resolve it?" Four out of five people mentioned that they did not have to go to a state court or Shuras/Jirgas to resolve a dispute in the past two years. Only 14 percent mentioned that they had to go.

In the past two years have you had a dispute or a formal case that you couldn't settle with the other party and had to go to a State Court or village/neighbourhood based Shura/Jirga to resolve it? (Q-88, Base 6263)

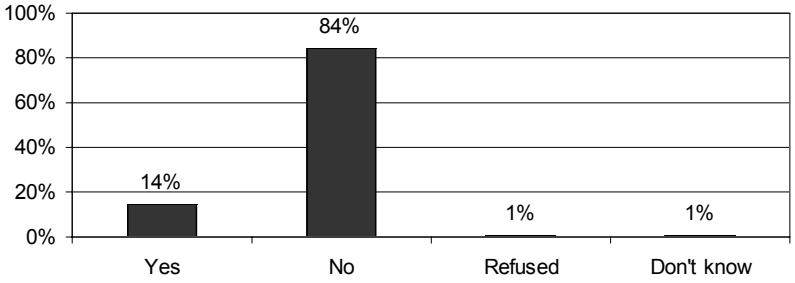

Fig 6.12

A follow-up question was then asked "Where have you taken this case or dispute?" to those respondents who mentioned that they had to go to a state court or Shuras/Jirgas to resolve a dispute (i.e., 14 percent of the total respondents). Afghan public's choice of place for settling a dispute is found to be divided. Forty-six percent of them mentioned that they have taken a case to a state court while another 43 percent mentioned a Shuras/Jirgas. As the table below reveals, those living in urban areas tend to go to state courts (62%) while those living in rural areas tend to go to Shuras/Jirgas (46%).

Where have you taken this case or dispute? (Q-89, Base 897) RURAL VERSUS URBAN

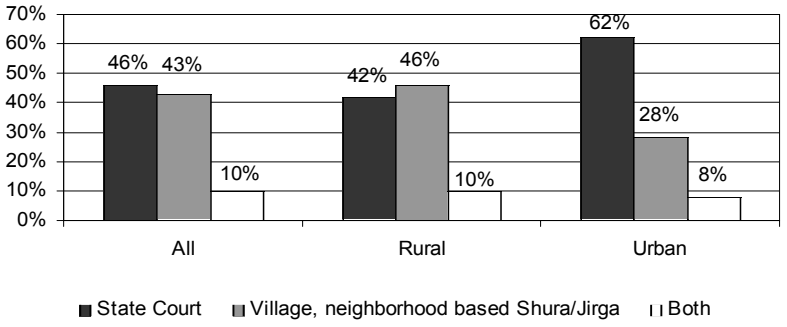

Fig 6.13

While comparing our findings of this year with the 2006 survey it apparently seems like this year more people approached the formal court system than the last.

A follow-up question "When taking or being a party in settling a case in a state court, have you used any professional legal services (from a lawyer) or you pleaded your case alone or were helped by friends/relatives?" was asked to those respondents who mentioned that they have taken a case to a state court (i.e., 7 percent of the total respondents). More than half of them mentioned that they pleaded their case alone or were helped by friends or relatives while another one-third mentioned that they used professional legal services.

When taking or being a party in settling case in a State Court, have you used any professional legal services (from a lawyer) or you pleaded your case alone or helped by friends/relatives? (Q-90, Base 408)

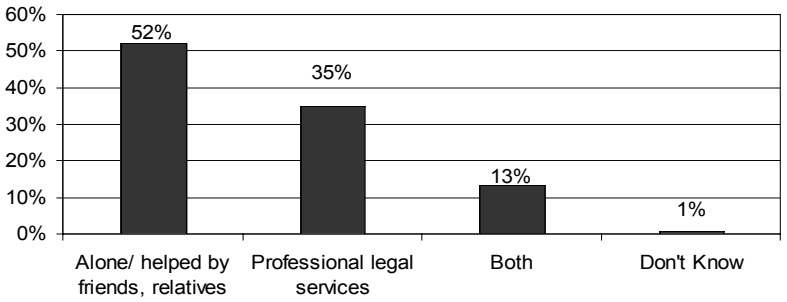

Fig 6.14

Likewise another follow-up question "What kind of a case or dispute was it?" was asked to those respondents who mentioned that they had to go to a state court or shura/jirga to resolve a dispute (i.e., 14 percent of the total respondents). About half of them (48%) mentioned that it was dispute over land while another 14 percent mentioned that it was dispute over other types of property (besides land) followed by physical assault (10%).

What kind of a case or dispute was it? (Q-91, Base 897)

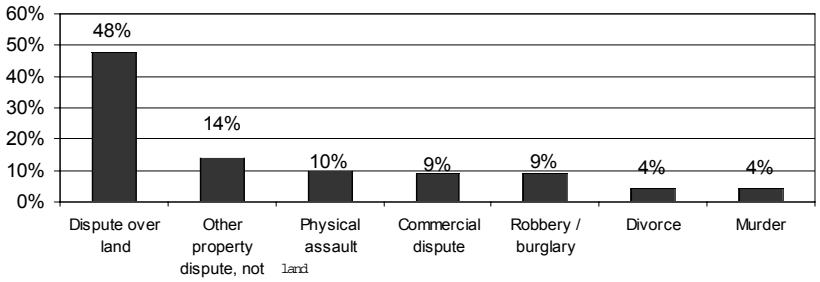

Fig 6.15

"Were you satisfied with the outcome of the proceedings?" was asked to those who mentioned that they had to go to a state court or Shura/Jirga to resolve a dispute (i.e., 14 percent of the total respondents). About 59 percent of them mentioned that they were satisfied with the outcome of the proceedings while another 23 percent said they were not.

Were you satisfied with the outcome of the proceedings? (Q-92, Base 897)

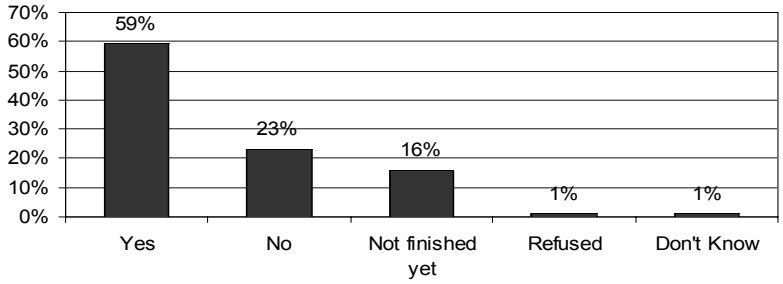

Fig 6.16

Interestingly, it is also found that the the proportion of people who were satisfied with the outcome of the proceedings is significantly higher among those who had taken their cases to local jirga/shura than among those who had taken to a state court (67% vs. 56%).

Were you satisfied with the outcome of the proceedings? by place where case or dispute was taken (Q-92, Base 897) BY TYPE OF JUSTICE

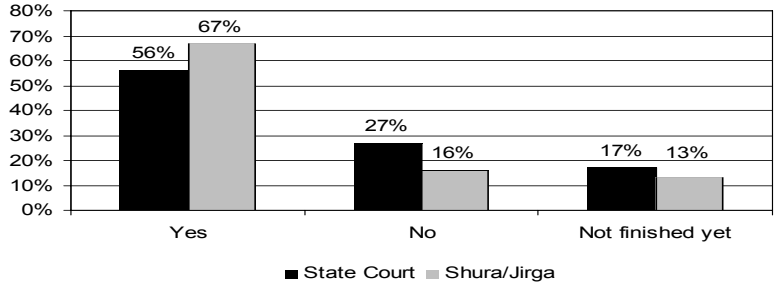

Fig 6.17

7 Democratic Values

7.1 Public understanding towards democracy

The people of Afghanistan were asked what democracy meant to them. In response to the question more than half of the respondents (51%) mentioned freedom while one-third (33%) mentioned peace. For one-fourth (26%) of the people, democracy meant rights and law, and government of the people.

Now I'd like to ask about something else. If a country is called a democracy, what does that mean to you? (Q-58, Base 6263)

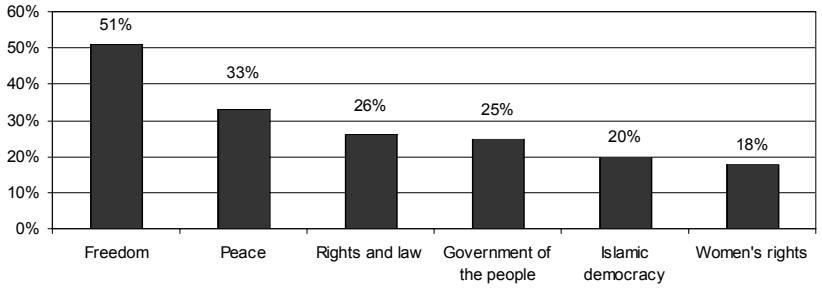

Fig 7.1

In comparison to the 2006 survey, the responses have been very similar. However, a proportionally less number of people seem to have opted for the choices.

Now I'd like to ask about something else. If a country is called a democracy, what does that mean to you?(Q-58, Base 2636) COMPARISON WITH 2006

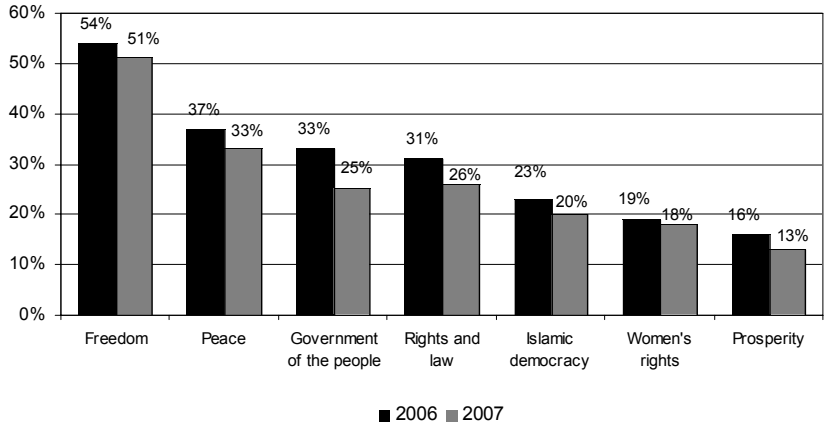

Fig 7.2

A follow-up question was asked to assess what people believe democracy personally brings them. Thirty-four percent said that peace is the most important thing that democracy in Afghanistan would bring them personally. Thirty percent mentioned freedom followed by rights and law (23%), government of the people (22%), Islamic democracy (22%) and less corruption (21%). This underscores the association of democracy with peace, in the minds of Afghans.

What, if anything, is the most important thing that democracy in Afghanistan will bring you personally? (Q-59, Base 6263)

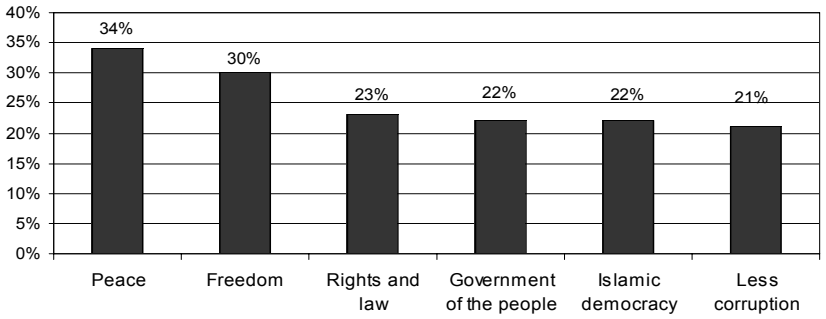

Fig 7.3

The public's response towards political parties and whether they should be allowed to hold meetings in their areas was somewhat divided. Forty seven percent mentioned that they should not be allowed to hold meetings in their area while another 46 percent mentioned that they should be. In comparison to 2006, political tolerance of the public has significantly decreased in 2007. Fifty-six percent had accepted the political parties in 2006 while only 46 percent do so in 2007.

Do you think that political parties should be allowed to hold meetings in your area? (Q - 60, Base 6263) COMPARISON WTTH 2006

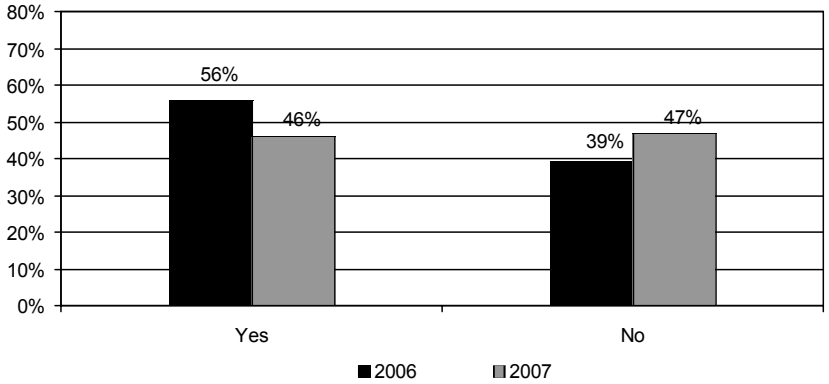

Fig 7.4

In response to another question the survey tried to assess the reaction of its respondents towards political parties that most people do not like, by asking whether they would allow those parties to hold meetings in their area. About two-third of the people (63%) gave a negative answer while another one-third (31%) gave a positive answer.

Do you think that all political parties, even the ones most people do not like, should be allowed to hold meetings in your area? (Q-61, Base 6263)

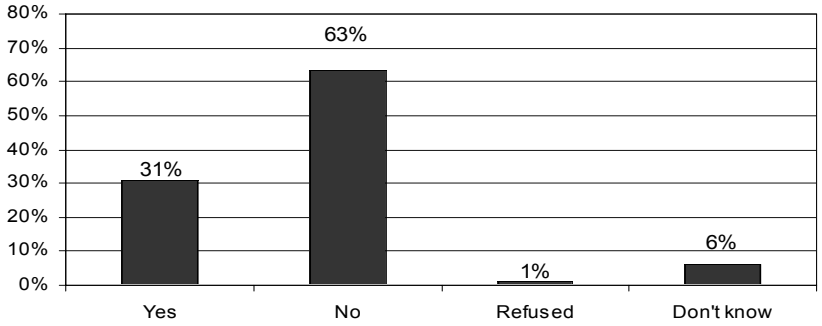

Fig 7.5

The public view in this regard is very much similar to that of the 2006 survey.

Do you think that all political parties, even the ones most people do not like, should be allowed to hold meetings in your area? (Q-61, Base 6263) COMPARISON WITH 2006

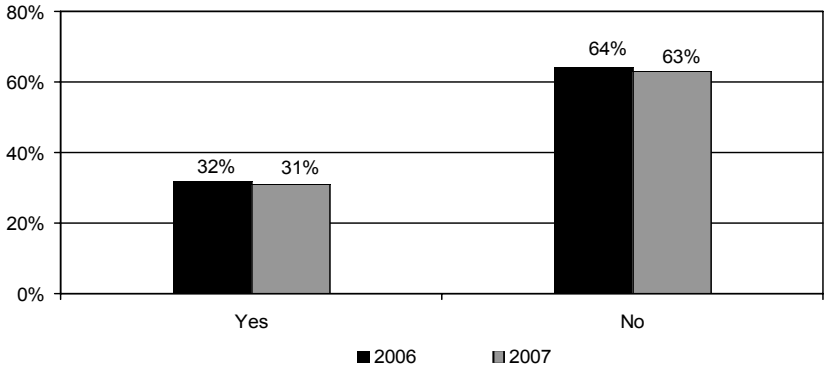

Fig 7.6

The survey sought to know whether two people with different political ideology could have a friendship in Afghan society. More than half of the respondents mentioned that they would accept a friend who supported a political front that they themselves were not favourable to, while another 37 percent mentioned that such a situation would end their friendship.

Suppose a friend of yours supported a party you don't like. Would you accept that, or would it end your friendship? (Q-62, Base 6263)

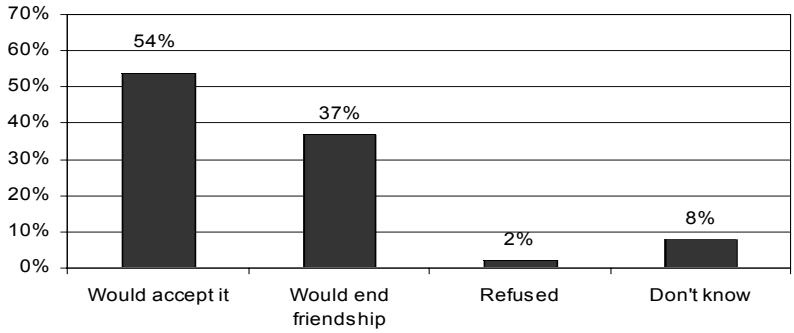

Fig 7.7

The survey endeavoured to uncover the public agreement or disagreement towards certain political ideas. Some statements carrying political ideas were read out to respondents one by one and they were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statements. The statements that were read-out and those who strongly agreed, agreed, somewhat disagreed and strongly disagreed are presented in the table below.

Table 7.1: Public's agreement or disagreement with various political ideas (Q-63 a-c, Base 6263)

Statement	Strongly agree (%)	Somewhat agree (%)	Somewhat disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)
It is good thing that the government should allow peaceful opposition.	41	40	9	6
Everyone should have equal rights under the law, regardless of their gender, ethnicity or religion.	61	29	7	2
Religious authorities should lead people in obeying the obligations of their faith while political leaders should make decisions about how the government is run.	43	37	12	6

7.2 Democracy and Islam

There are, broadly speaking, two views on the relationship between democracy and Islamic values. Some people say that democracy will bring westernization and too much freedom, and will challenge Islamic values. Other people say that an Islamic country can be democratic without becoming too western, and it can still keep its Islamic values. In this regard the survey attempted to understand how the average Afghan sees the situation. At first, aforementioned background information was read to all respondents and they were then asked which statement was closer to their view: (1) Democracy challenges Islamic values, or (2) Democracy can be Islamic also. Most of the people (66%) opined that democracy can be Islamic while another 29 percent mentioned that democracy challenges Islamic values.

Compared to 2006, more people believe that democracy and Islam can go together in 2007. In 2006, 60 percent people mentioned that democracy can be Islamic also while the proportion of those mentioned the same was 66 percent in 2007.

Some people say: "Democracy will bring Westernization and too much freedom and challenge Islamic values." Other people say: "An Islamic country can be democratic without becoming too Western. It can still keep its Islamic values". Which is closer to your view? (Q-64, Base 6263)

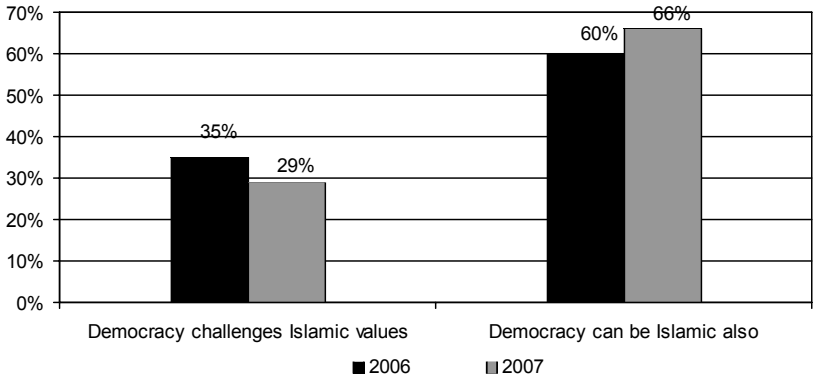

Fig 7.8

The public view in this regard is different across regions. Even though most of the people in all regions mentioned that democracy could be Islamic also, significant number of people in Eastern and South-Western regions mentioned that democracy challenges Islamic values. In particular, people in the Eastern region are divided between the two opinions.

Some people say: "Democracy will bring Westernization and too much freedom and challenge Islamic values." Other people say: "An Islamic country can be democratic without becoming too Western. It can still keep its Islamic values". Which is closer to your view? (Q-64, Base 6263) BY REGION

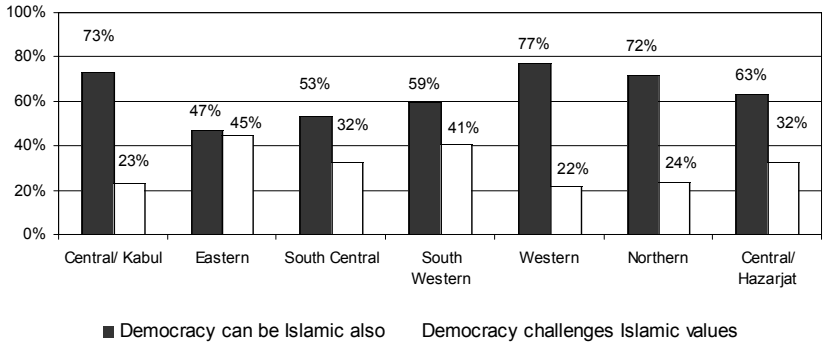

Fig 7.9

7.3 Perception towards democracy

During the interview, a series of statements about democracy was read to respondents one by one and they were asked to state whether they agree or disagree with the statements. The statements that were read-out and those who strongly agreed, agreed, somewhat disagreed and strongly disagreed are presented in the table below.

Table 7.2: Public's agreement or disagreement with various statements about democracy (Q-74 a-c, Base 6263)

Statement	Strongly agree (%)	Somewhat agree (%)	Somewhat disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)
Democracy may have its problems, but it is better than any other form of government.	35	50	8	2
Despite our differences, as Afghans we have many values that unite us.	50	38	9	2
Politicians seek power for their own benefit and don't worry about helping people.	45	34	14	5

"On the whole, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way democracy works in Afghanistan?" Through this question, the survey attempted to measure the level of satisfaction of Afghan people towards democracy. Almost one-fifth (18%) of the respondents said they are very satisfied while more than half (55%) of the people are fairly satisfied.. However, one-fourth of the people are either not very satisfied or not satisfied at all.

The trend of 2007 is similar to the trend of 2006.

On the whole, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way democracy works in Afghanistan? (Q-75, Base 6263)

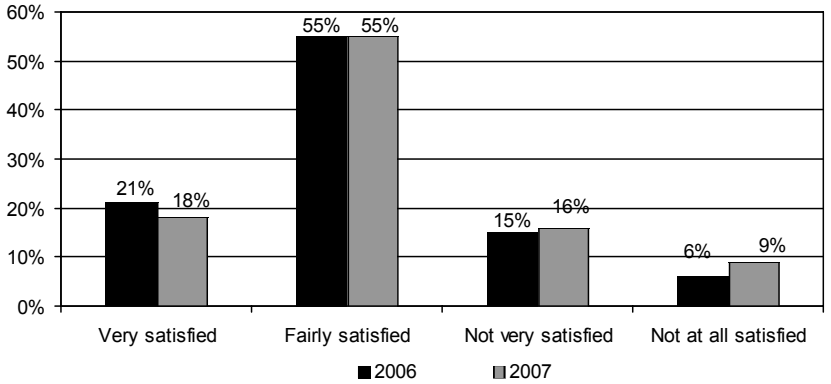

Fig 7.10

Though most of the people are fairly satisfied with the way democracy works in Afghanistan, more people belonging to Tajik, Uzbek and Hazara ethnic groups are satisfied with the way democracy works in Afghanistan than are the Pashtun people.

On the whole, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way democracy works in Afghanistan? (Q-75, Base 6263) BY ETHNICITY

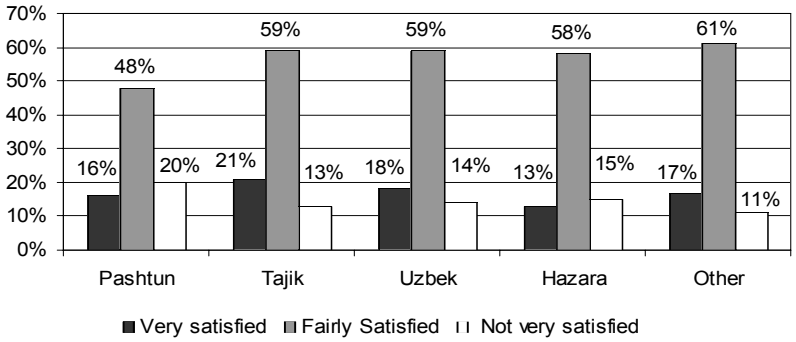

Fig 7.11

7.4 Freedom of expression

To gauge people's perception of freedom of expression the following question was asked: "Do most people feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live?" Public's view in this matter is found to be divided; if 42 percent gave a negative answer, 40 percent gave a positive one.

Compared to 2006, lesser number of people said that they are free to express their political opinions where they live (49 percent in 2006, 40 percent in 2007).

Do most people feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live? (Q-31, Base 6263) COMPARISON WITH 2006

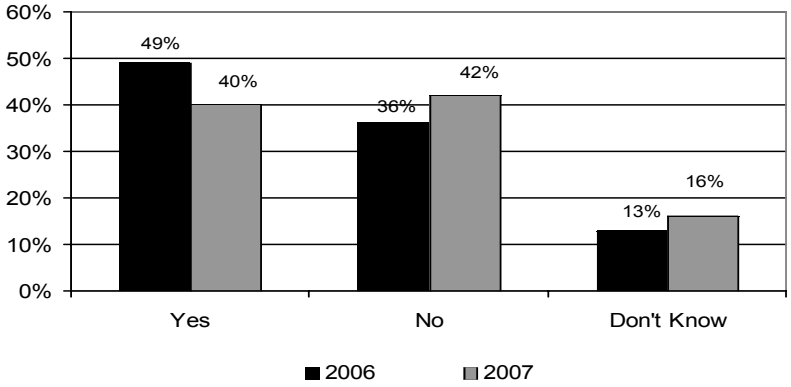

Fig 7.12

A larger number of urban dwellers (42%) feel free to express their political opinions in the area where they live while more of the rural dwellers (43%) do not.

Do most people feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live? (Q-31, Base 6263) RURAL VERSUS URBAN

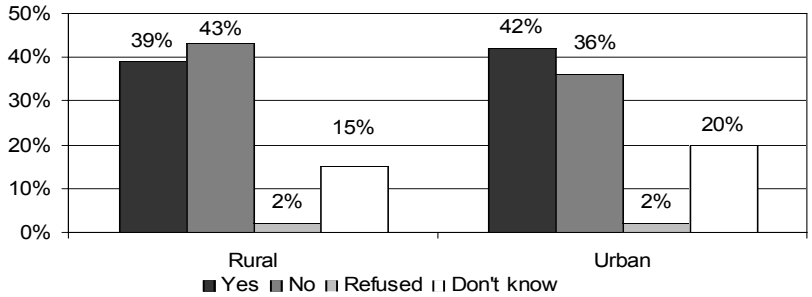

Fig 7.13

The public view in this matter also varies across regions. The largest section of people in Central-Kabul and Northern regions mention that most people feel free to express their political opinions while the largest proportion of the people in other regions believe otherwise.

Do most people feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live? (Q-31, Base 6263) BY REGION

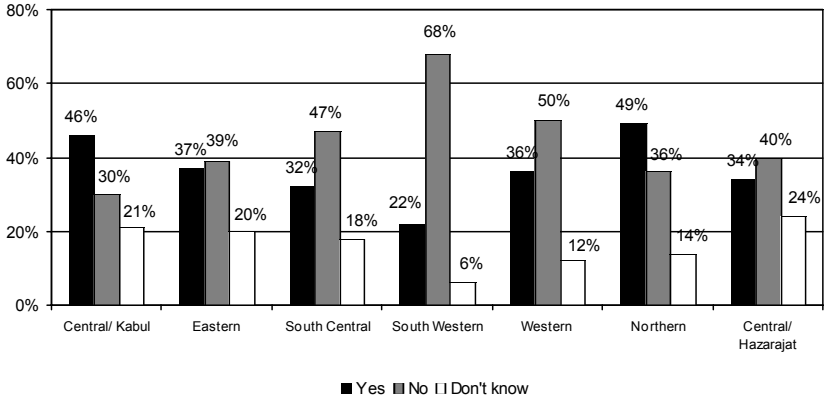

Fig 7.14

A follow-up question "What changes compared with the past, or reasons, do you think have made most people feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live?" was asked to those respondents who mentioned that most people feel free to express political opinions where they live (i.e., 40 percent of the total respondents). Respondents were allowed to mention more than one reason. Sixty percent of them mentioned that it is so because freedom of speech is guaranteed

while 45 percent mentioned that it was due to good security conditions. A significant number of people (26%) attributed this to peace and democracy.

What changes compared with the past, or reasons, do you think have made most people to feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live? (Q-32 a-b, Base 2485) COMPARISON WITH 2006

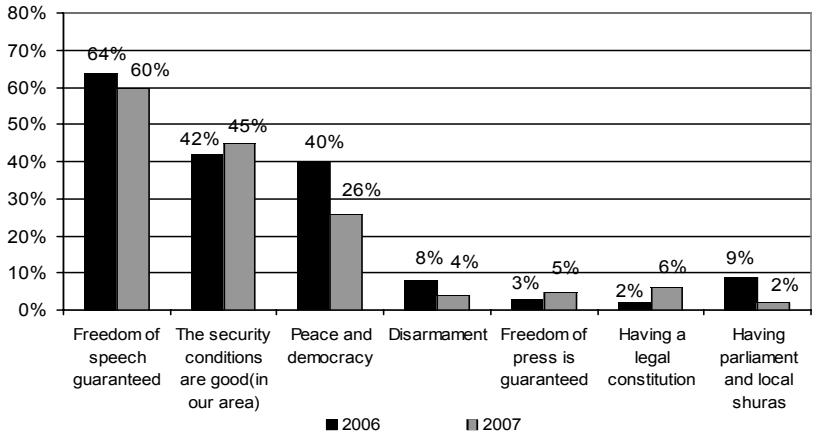

Fig 7.15

The respondents who mentioned that most people do not feel free to express political opinions where they live (i.e., 42 percent of the total respondents) were asked why they thought so. They were free to mention more than one reason. Thirty-six percent of them cited bad security conditions in their areas while 34 percent mentioned that it was due to fear for their safety. One-fourth of them mentioned that it was due to presence of Taliban in the area. A significant number of people (22%) attributed this to the government not allowing freedom of political opinions.

Why don't people in your area have the freedom to express their political opinions? (Q-33 a-b, Base 2604)

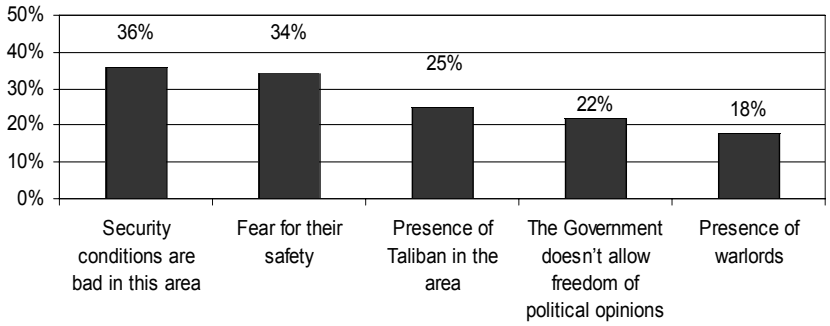

Fig 7.16

7.5 Public's involvement in associations and organizations

The survey attempted to understand about Afghan people's involvement in various associations or organizations. Respondents were asked whether they were members of any formal association or organization, which was not including the place where they worked for money. An overwhelming majority of 86 percent said 'no'. Only 12 percent mentioned that they are members of a formal association or organization.

Are you member of any formal association or organization, not including the place where you work for money? (Q-51, Base 6263)

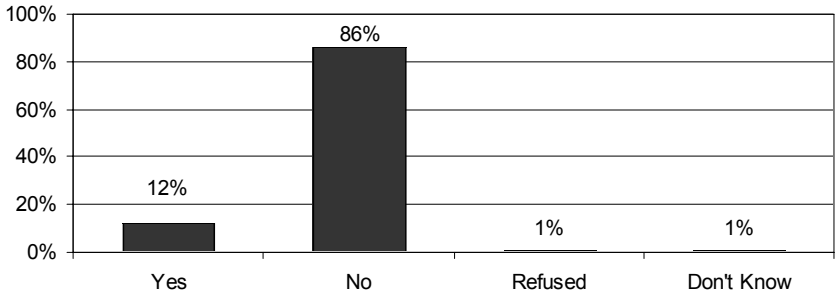

Fig 7.17

Among the different variables, it is education that plays a significant role in determining people's involvement in associations and organizations. The higher is the individual's educational level, the higher the possibility of him or her becoming a member of an association and organization.

Are you member of any formal association or organization, not including the place where you work for money? (Q-51, Base 6263) BY EDUCATION LEVELS

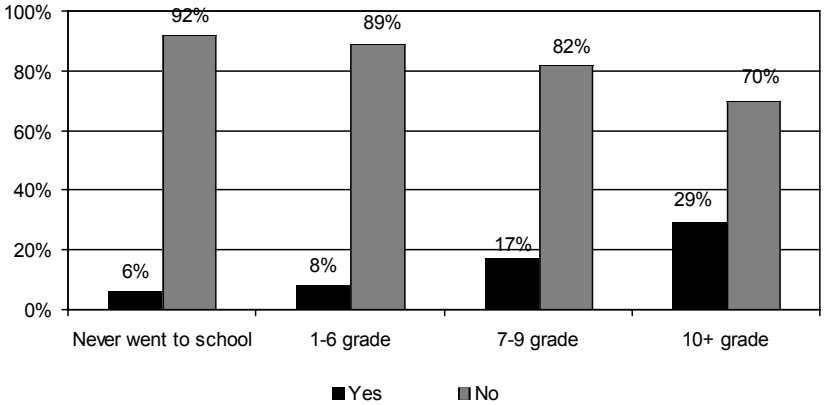

Fig 7.18

Those who mentioned that they are members of an association or organization (i.e., 12 percent of the total respondents) were asked about which association or organization they were members of. Nineteen percent of them said that they are members of a youth association while another 19 percent said that they were members of a farmer samity. A significant proportion of 15 percent and 12 percent said student associations and teacher associations respectively.

What kind of association or organization are you a member of? (Q-52, Base 748)

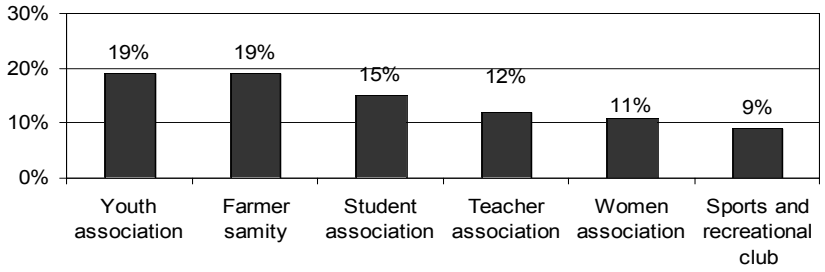

Fig 7.19

7.6 Perception towards elections

In order to ascertain the public's faith in elections, the survey asked the respondents whether they thought that voting could lead to improvement in the future or whether they believed that no matter if one voted, things would never change. Three-fourth of the people mentioned that voting could change things while one-fourth mentioned that things were not going to get better. This reveals that an overwhelming majority of Afghan people continue to have faith in elections.

Do you think that voting can lead to improvement in the future or do you believe that no matter how one votes, things never change? (Q-71, Base 6263)

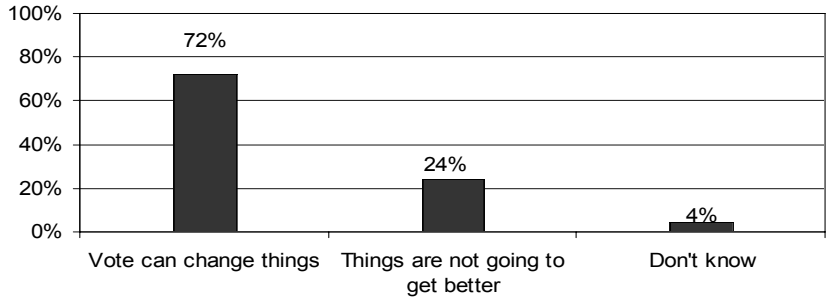

Fig 7.20

Table 7.3: Do you think that voting can lead to improvement in the future or do you believe that no matter how one votes, things never change? (Q-71, Base 6263) BY REGION

	Central / Kabul	Eastern	South Central	South Western	Western	Northern	Central/ Hazarajat (%)
Voting can change things	72%	73%	63%	67%	74%	77%	79%
Things are not going to get better	23%	21%	29%	32%	24%	20%	20%

Table 7.4: Do you think that voting can lead to improvement in the future or do you believe that no matter how one votes, things never change? (Q-71, Base 6263) BY ETHNICITY.

	Pashtun	Tajik	Uzbek	Hazara	Others
Voting can change things	69%	75%	78%	74%	72%
Things are not going to get better	26%	22%	20%	21%	26%

In the past, elections were managed jointly by international donors and the Afghan Government. In this context, the survey attempted to measure the public's level of confidence towards the Afghan Government by asking whether it would be able to conduct free and fair elections in future on its own. More than half of the people mentioned that they are somewhat confident that the Afghanistan Government will be able to conduct a free and fair election in future on its own while 19 percent mentioned that they are very confident. Proportion of those who are not confident is small (12%).

In the past, elections were managed jointly by International donors and the Afghanistan Government, but future elections will be managed entirely by the Afghanistan Government. How confident are you that the Afghan Government on its own will be able to conduct free and fair elections? (Q-72, Base 6263)

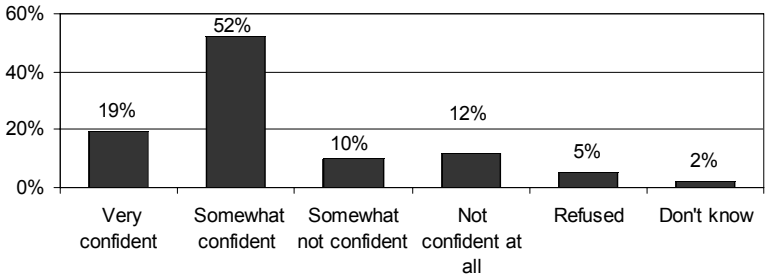

Fig 7.22

A follow-up question was asked to those respondents who mentioned that they are somewhat not confident or not confident at all that the Government to be able to conduct free and fair elections on its own (i.e., 21 percent of the total respondents) about why they thought so. Twenty-five percent of them thought so because the government is weak while another 24 percent thought so due to lack of security. A significant proportion of 19 percent thought so because there is corruption.

What makes you think so? (Q-73, Base 1379)

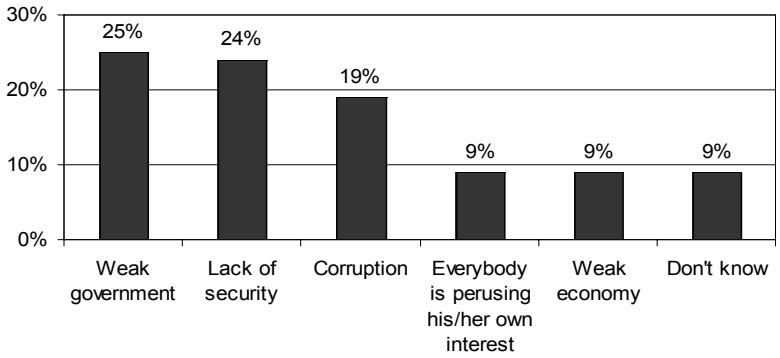

Fig 7.23

8 Women and Society

8.1 The biggest problem of women

This chapter explores the problems faced by women in Afghanistan, their voting rights, gender equality, decision making and political leadership.

The survey attempted to understand what the public assessed to be the biggest problem facing women in their areas. In response to the question, it appears that lack of education (illiteracy) is identified to be the biggest problem facing women of Afghanistan today. Twenty-nine percent said so. Another 13 percent identified the lack of women's rights as the biggest problem followed by the lack of job opportunities for women (9%).

Now let's talk specifically about women related issues. What is the biggest problem facing women in this area today? (Q-93a, Base 6263)

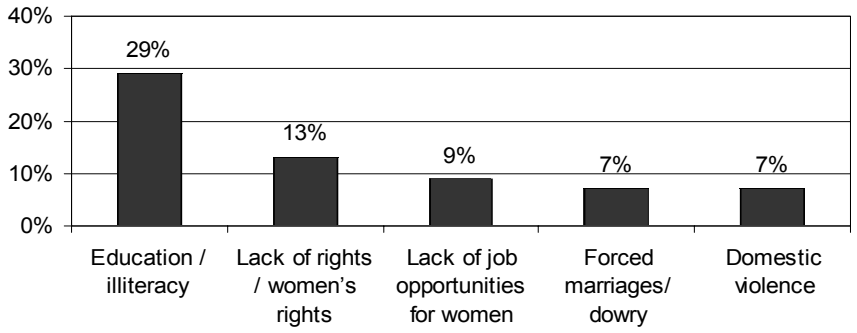

Fig 8.1

Table 8.1: Some of the issues mentioned as specifically related to women (Q-93a, Base 6263) BY REGION

	Central /Kabul	Eastern	South Central	South Western	Western	Northern	Central/ Hazarajat
Base: All respondents	1171	608	908	576	720	1810	470
Education / illiteracy	27%	38%	28%	19%	37%	24%	44%
Lack of rights / women's rights	12%	11%	11%	19%	16%	11%	16%
Lack of job opportunities for women	8%	3%	5%	6%	7%	16%	5%
Forced marriages/ dowry	4%	15%	7%	8%	9%	6%	1%
Domestic violence	3%	8%	9%	8%	7%	8%	9%
General health care	6%	1%	8%	3%	4%	6%	5%
Pregnancy related health care	4%	3%	7%	5%	2%	3%	6%
Poverty	6%	6%	5%	2%	3%	7%	1%
Security	2%	1%	1%	7%	6%	1%	1%

During the interview, the respondents were asked to mention the next biggest problem facing women in their areas. After combining the responses obtained for the biggest problem and the next biggest problem, it is revealed that there are no changes in the priority order of women's problems. Lack of education (illiteracy) stands as the first biggest problem (48%), followed by lack of women's rights (23%), and followed in turn by lack of job opportunities for women (19%).

Now let's talk specifically about women related issues. What is the biggest problem facing women in this area today? (Q-93 a-b, Base 6263)

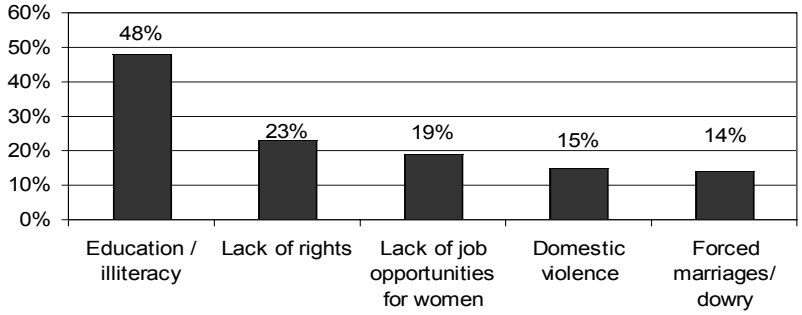

Fig 8.2

When this is compared to the 2006 survey, changes in public's priority become apparent. Even though lack of education was in the first priority in both the surveys, the degree of the priority is higher in 2007. It is also worth-mentioning that this time it is unemployment that is in the third priority instead of forced marriages.

Now let's talk specifically about women related issues. What is the biggest problem facing women in this area today? (Q-93a-b, Base 6263) COMPARISON WITH 2006

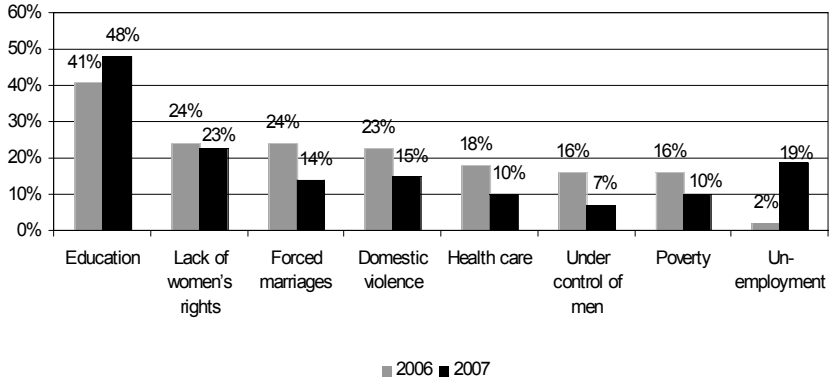

Fig 8.3

8.2 Women and local tradition

First a series of questions on the relationship between women and local tradition was asked. The first question pertained to wearing the burkha. Sixty percent mentioned that women should usually wear burkha outside the home while another 38 percent mentioned that it was not necessary to do so.

Now I would like to ask you about women in your community. Some people say that to respect Afghan traditions and Islam, women should usually wear a burkha outside the home, while others say that times are changing, and women should be able to move freely outside the home without a burkha. Which is closer to your view? (Q-67, Base 6263) GENDER AND RURAL VERSUS URBAN COMPARISON

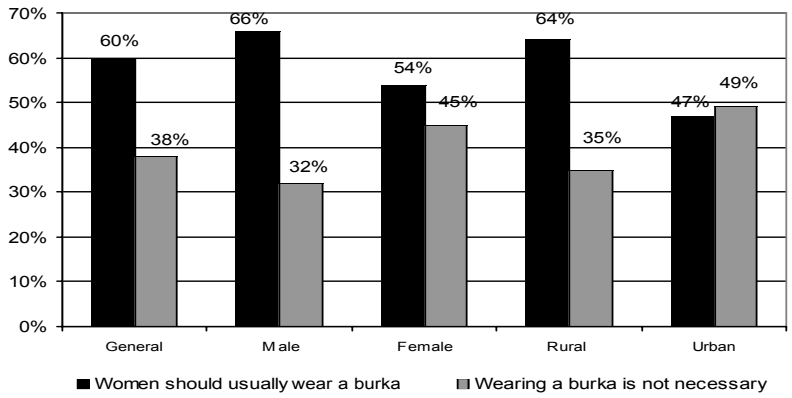

Fig 8.4

The public view in this matter varies between men and women; it also varies in terms of rural-urban settlement, education and region. In relative terms more females than males and more urban dwellers than rural dwellers think that wearing a burkha is not necessary. Similarly, the higher the educational level, the more the feeling that wearing burkha is not necessary.

Looking at the issue by region, most of the people in Eastern, South-Central, Northern South-Western and regions think that women should usually wear a burkha outside the home, while the public's views in other regions is divided.

Now I would like to ask you about women in your community. Some people say that to respect Afghan traditions and Islam, women should usually wear a burka outside the home, while others say that times are changing, and women should be able to move freely outside the home without a burka. Which is closer to your view? (Q-67, Base 6263) BY REGION

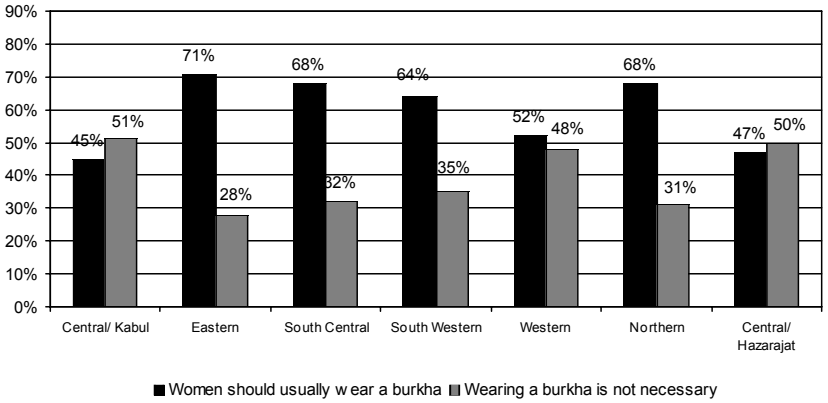

Fig 8.5

The survey sought to understand Afghan people's view whether the use of burkha is more related to Afghan tradition and culture or whether it is more related to the requirements of Islam. Some 52 percent mentioned that it is more related to Afghan tradition and culture while 46 percent mentioned that it is more related to the requirements of Islam.

Do you think that the use of the burka in Afghanistan is more related to Afghan tradition and culture, or is it more related to the requirements of Islam? (Q-68, Base 6263)

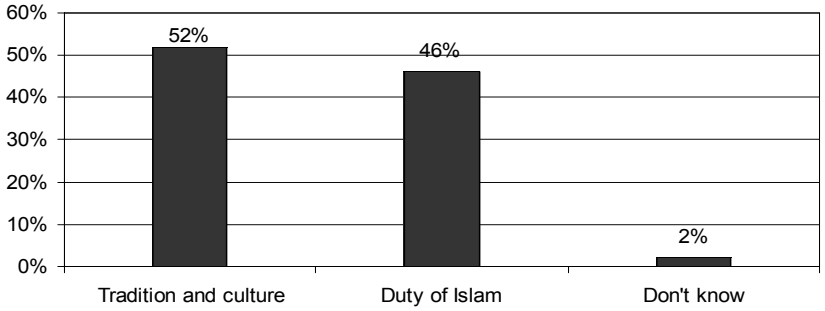

Fig 8.6

The public view in this matter significantly varies by region. Most of the people in Central-Kabul and Western regions think that it is more related to local tradition and culture while the views are divided in other regions.

Do you think that the use of the burka in Afghanistan is more related to Afghan tradition and culture, or is it more related to the requirements of Islam?
(Q-68, Base 6263) BY REGION

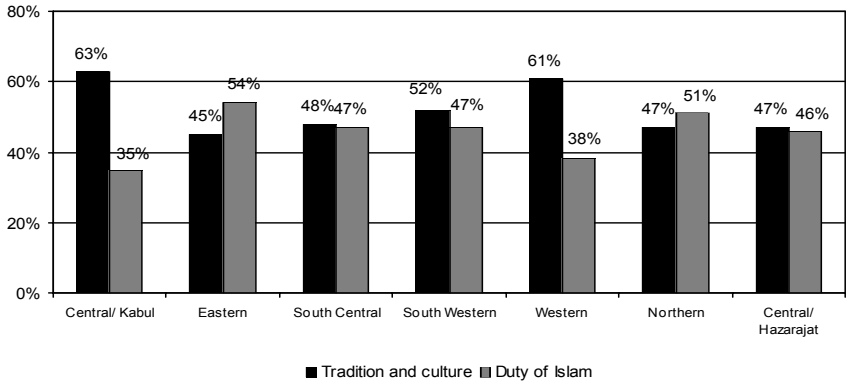

Fig 8.7

8.3 Women and other issues

The survey endeavoured to ascertain the public's agreement or disagreement towards certain issues related with women. During the interview, a series of statements was read to respondents one by one and they were asked whether they agree or disagree with the statements. The statements that were read-out and the percentages of those who agreed, and disagreed are presented in the table below.

Table 8.2: Public's agreement or disagreement towards various women related issues (Q-94, Q-96, Q-98, Base 6263)

Statement	Strongly agree (%)	Somewhat agree (%)	Somewhat disagree (%)	Strongly disagree (%)
Some people say that women should have equal opportunities like men in education.	56	33	7	3
The new constitution says men and women have equal rights, including the right to vote.	53	32	10	3
In the election, everyone must vote for themselves. Men cannot vote in place of women. Women must vote for themselves.	59	29	8	3

"Some people say that women should be allowed to work outside the home. What is your opinion about this?" In response to this question, an overwhelming majority of 70 percent mentioned that women should be allowed to work outside the home while another 28 percent gave a negative response. Men and women responded differently to this question. Even though both men and women were in the agreement with the statement, the proportion of those who think that women should be allowed to work outside the home was higher among women than it was among men (82% vs. 58%).

Some people say that women should be allowed to work outside the home. What is your opinion about this? (Q-95, Base 6263) BY GENDER

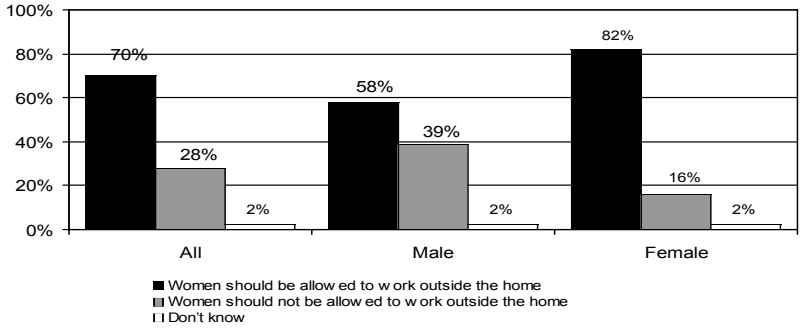

Fig 8.8

Going by region majority of people agree with the statement. However, more people living in Central-Kabul and Western regions are in favour of the statement than their counterparts in other regions.

Some people say that women should be allowed to work outside the home. What is your opinion about this? (Q-95, Base 6263) BY REGION

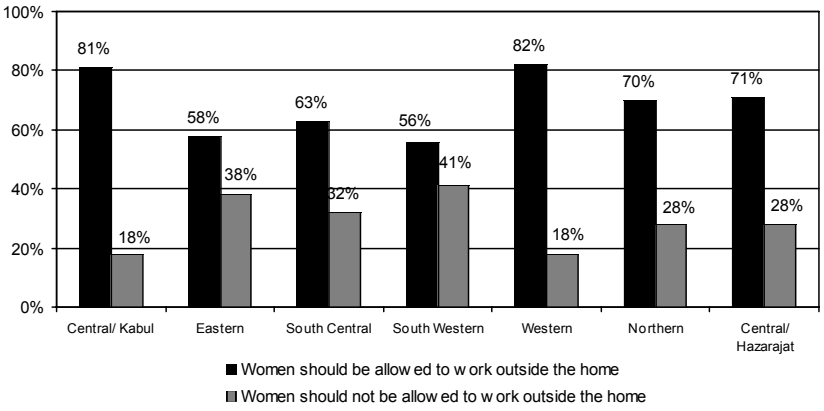

Fig 8.9

In response to the question "If women vote, do you think that women should decide for themselves or should they receive advice from men?" 56 percent mentioned that women should decide for themselves while 25 percent mentioned that men should advise them. A significant proportion of 19 percent mentioned that women should decide for themselves but in consultation with men. Proportionally more women (64%) than men (48%) tend to believe that women should decide for themselves.

If women vote, do you think that women should decide for themselves or should they receive advice from men? (Q-97, Base 6263) BY GENDER

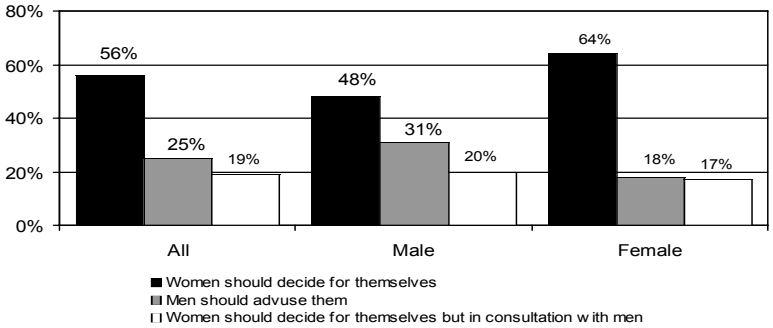

Fig 8.10

8.4 Women and political participation

A few rounds of questions were asked about women's participation in politics. It began by asking whether political leadership positions should be mostly for men, mostly for women, or both men and women should have equal representation in the political leadership. More than half of the people mentioned that both men and women should have equal representation while another 27 thought that it should be mostly for women. A significant proportion of 21 percent mentioned that it should be mostly for men. As the table below reveals more females believe in the equal representation than their male counterparts (62% vs. 39%).

Do you think that political leadership positions should be mostly for men, mostly for women, or do you think that both men and women should have equal representation in the political leadership? (Q-99, Base 6263)

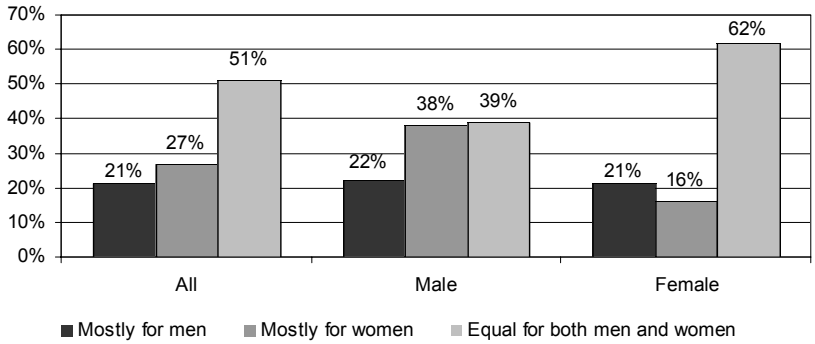

Fig 8.11

The public view in response to this question varies in terms of regions. In particular, people in Eastern and South-Western regions are less in favour of women participating in political affairs than people living in other regions. Most of the people in these two regions think that political leadership positions should be mostly for men.

Do you think that political leadership positions should be mostly for men, mostly for women, or do you think that both men and women should have equal representation in the political leadership? (Q-99, Base 6263) BY REGION

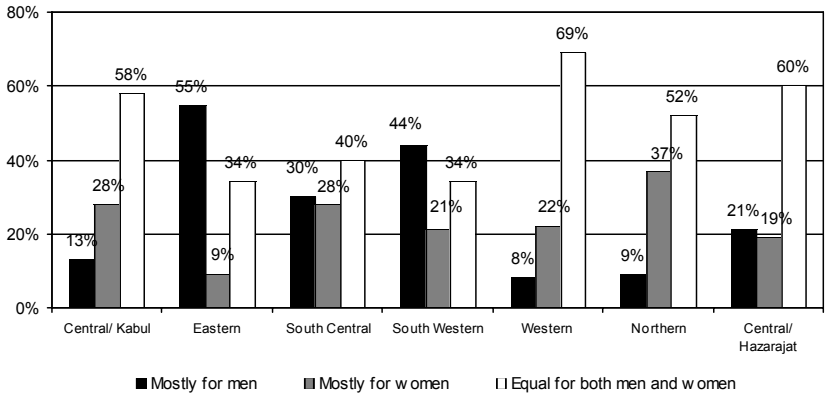

Fig 8.12

In response to a question: "Would you prefer to be represented by a man or a woman in the Provincial Council?" 47 percent mentioned that it makes no difference while 35 percent mentioned that they would prefer to be represented by a man. If men prefer to be represented by men, for a majority of women it makes no difference.

Would you prefer to be represented by a man or a woman in the Provincial Council? (Q-100, Base 6263)BY GENDER

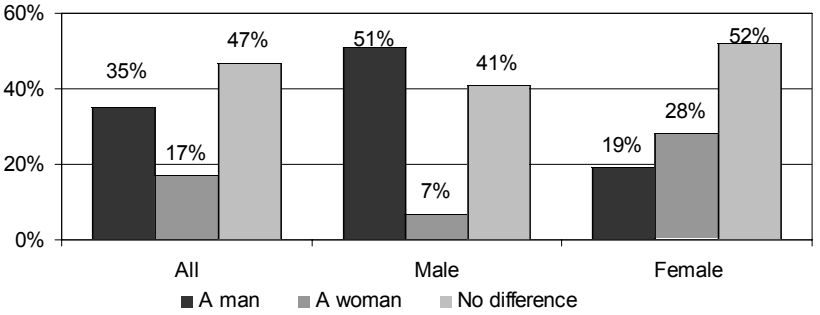

Fig 8.13

In order to measure people's liberality towards women in the sense of political leadership in more detail, a follow-up question was asked: "Are you opposed to a woman representing you in the following organizations?" Organizations mentioned in the list were read to the respondents. People response is summarized in the table below:

Table 8.3: Are you opposed to a woman representing you in the following organizations? (Q-101 a-e, Base 6263)

Organization	Yes (%)	No (%)
In National Parliament	44	55
In Provincial Council	41	58
In Community Development Council	40	58
In District Development Assembly	39	59
In local Shura or Jirga	42	56

Opposition to women in these political bodies ranges in between 39 percent to 44 percent. The opposition is the lowest in district development assembly (39%) and highest in national parliament (44%). Surprisingly the opinions of both men and women in response to these questions converge. To give an example, if 43 percent of men oppose a woman representing them in national parliament, 46 percent of women oppose a woman representing them in national parliament.

These results reveal that a significant number of common people in Afghanistan do not like women representing them in district development assembly, community development councils and in provincial councils. In relative terms, among the various political bodies, most men and women are comfortable with women representing them in National Assembly.

9 Information Sources and Media Use

This section explores the listenership of radio, viewership of television and the way ordinary people use the media. It assesses the availability of items like radio, TV set, fixed phone line, mobile phone, bicycle and motorcycle in Afghan households.

9.1 Listenership of radio

The radio is the item that is most available in Afghan households. Eighty-eight percent of Afghan people mentioned that they own a functioning radio in their households. Bicycle is the second most common item owned (58%) followed by mobile phone (42%), TV set (37%) and motorcycle (32%). Very few households (3%) in Afghanistan have a fixed phone line.

Do you own any of the following here in your household in functioning order? (Q-1, Base 6263)

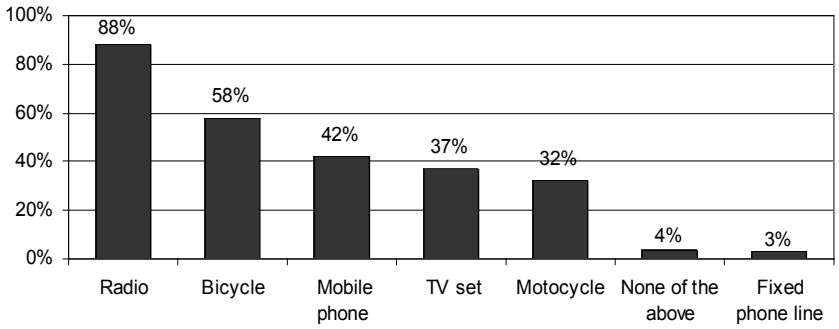

Fig 9.1

Table 9.1: Regional comparison for Radio, Mobile telephone and TV-Those saying 'Yes'. (Q-1)

	Central /Kabul	Eastern	South Central	South Western	Western	Northern	Central/ Hazarajat
Here in this house do own a Radio in functioning mood	87%	90%	94%	94%	90%	81%	95%
Here in this house do own a mobile phone in functioning mood	74%	51%	38%	40%	35%	31%	7%
Here in this house do own a television in functioning mood	79%	14%	19%	15%	61%	31%	8%

In the context of mobile phone, some three-fourth of the households (74%) in Central-Kabul region own mobile phones while only a little more than half (51%) of households in the Eastern region own them. Most of the households in other regions do not own mobile phones.

With regard to the availability of a TV set, the survey discloses that penetration of TV is highest (79%) in Central-Kabul region followed by the Western region (61%). Its access remains relatively poor in other regions.

The survey asked a series of questions about listenership of the radio. The first question asked was: "How many days a week do you listen to the radio, if any?" Forty-eight percent of the respondents mentioned that they listen to it every day or almost every day. Some 23 percent mentioned that they listen three or four days a week. Another 14 percent said that they never listen to the radio.

I'll ask you some questions about your listenership of radio. How many days a week do you listen to the radio, if any? (Q-2, Base 6263)

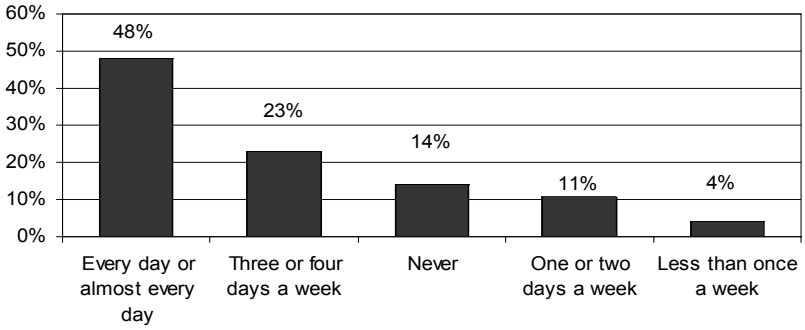

Fig 9.2

Though the radio continues to be the most listened to medium, its listenership seems to be declining compared to 2006. If in 2006, around 53 percent listened to it every day or almost every day, in 2007 only 48 percent do so. But radio still remains the best medium to reach out to the Afghan public.

I'll ask you some questions about your listenership of radio. How many days a week do you listen to the radio, if any? (Q-2, Base 6263) COMPARISON WITH 2006

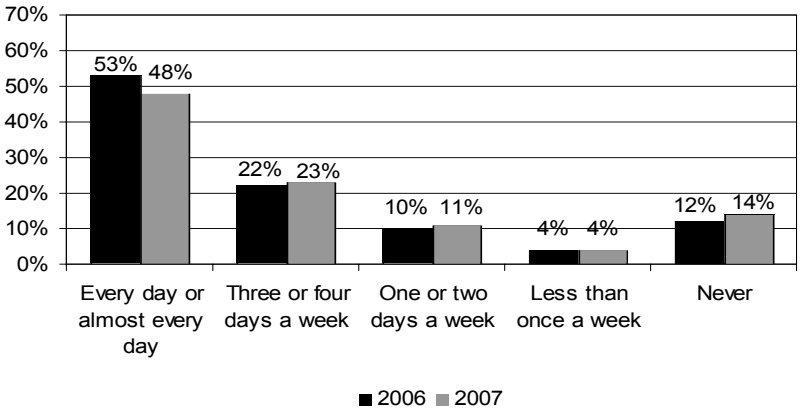

Fig 9.3

A follow-up question "How many hours do you listen to it on an average day every time when you listen to the radio?" was asked to those respondents who mentioned that they listen to the radio in any form of frequency (i.e., 86% of the total respondents). Eighteen percent of them mentioned that they listen to it less than 30 minutes while another 32 percent mentioned that they listen in for 31 minutes to an hour. Some 28 percent mentioned between one hour to two hours and another 21 percent said more than two hours a day.

How many hours do you listen to it on an average day every time when you listen to radio? (Q-3a, Base 5385)

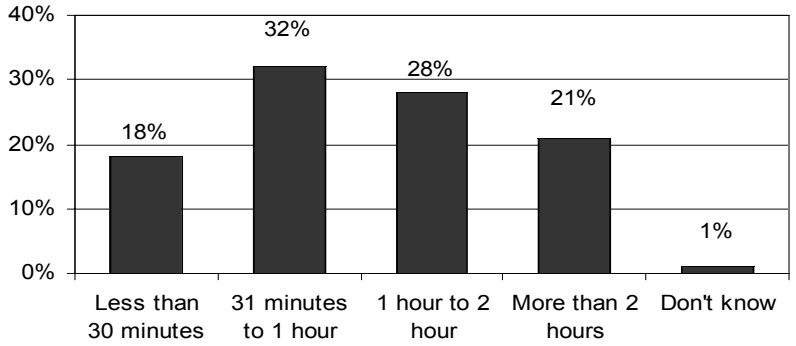

Fig 9.4

Another follow-up question "To which radio station do you listen most often?" was asked to those respondents who mentioned that they listen to the radio in any form of frequency (i.e., 86% of the total respondents). BBC is found to be the most listened to radio station in Afghanistan. Twenty-four percent of them mentioned this radio station followed by Radio Azadi (23%) and Arman FM (15%).[1]

To which radio station do you listen most often? (Q-3b, Base 5385)

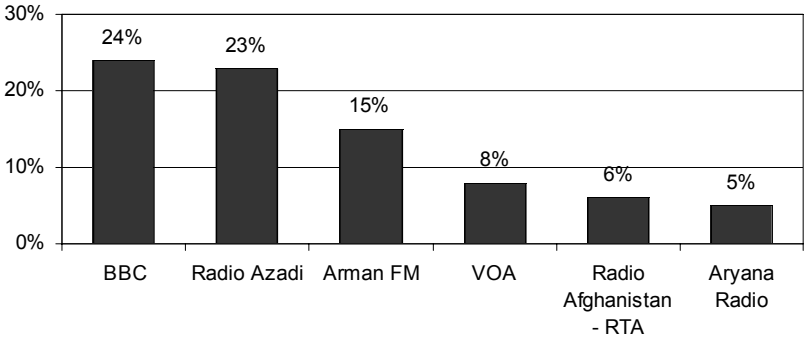

Fig 9.5

The public choice on the radio stations seems to vary across regions. The first preference for most of the people in Central-Kabul (45%) is Arman FM while the larger group of people in Eastern region (22%), Western region (33%) and Northern

region (24%) like to listen to Radio Azadi. The remaining three regions South Central, South Western and Central/Hazarajat prefer the BBC with 35, 33 and 38 percent respectively

To which radio station do you listen most often? (Q-3b, Base 5385) BY REGION

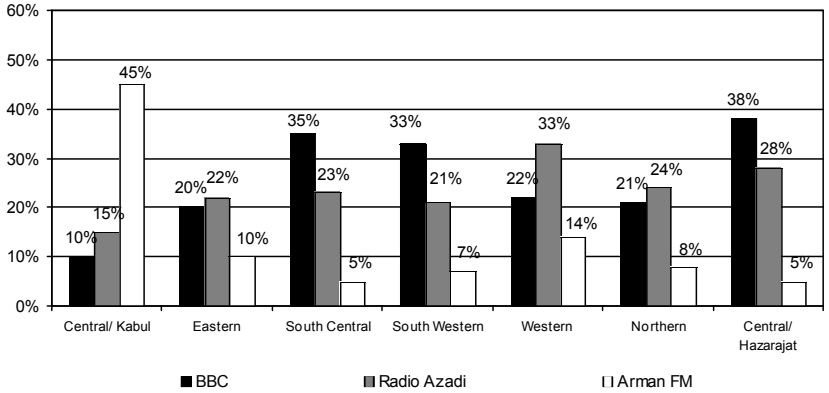

Fig 9.6

During the interview, the respondents were asked to mention another radio station which is their next preference. After combining the responses obtained for radio stations most listened to and the next best preference, it is revealed that Radio Azadi is the most popular radio station among Afghan people. Forty-four percent of people listen to this station followed by BBC (42%) and Arman FM (23%). A significant number of people also listen to VOA (17%) and Radio Afghanistan - RTA (12%).

To which radio station do you listen most often? (Q-3 b-c, Base 5385)

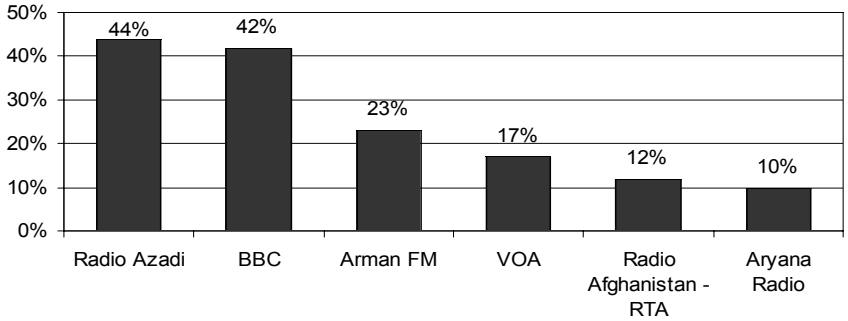

Fig 9.7

Listenership of radio and viewership of TV both showed a decline compared to 2006. The number of those who listen to the radio everyday dropped by 5 percent while the number of those who never listen to the radio increased by 2 percent. Everday viewership of TV declined by 1 percent while the number of those who never watch TV shot up by 7 percent.

9.2 Viewership of television

How many days a week do you watch TV, if any?" The survey attempted to measure the viewership of television among Afghan people. Sixty-one percent mentioned that they never watch television. Some 26 percent mentioned every day or almost every day followed by 8 percent who said three or four days a week.

Now I'll ask you some questions about your viewership of the television. How many days a week do you watch TV, if any? (Q-4, Base 6263)

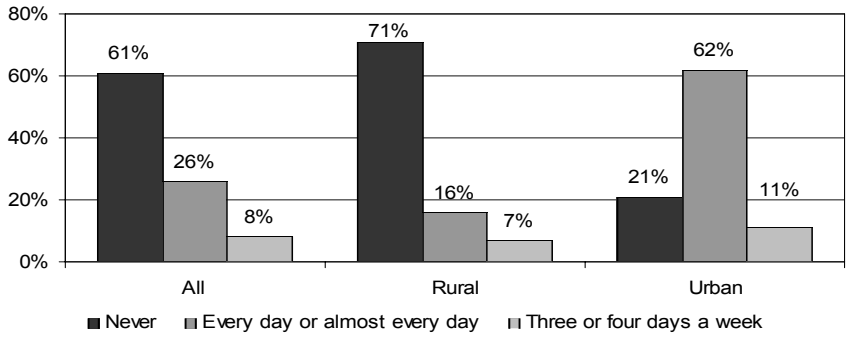

Fig 9.8

As expected, rural/urban settlement pattern has a significant influence on the viewership of television. An overwhelming majority of rural people (71%) mentioned that they never watch television while only 21 percent in the urban areas said the same. Sixty-two percent of urban people mentioned that they watch television every day or almost every day.

In contrast to 2006 when 54 percent had said they never watch TV, this year around 61 percent say they never watch TV.

Now I'll ask you some questions about your viewership of the television. How many days a week do you watch TV, if any? (Q-4, Base 6263) COMPARISON WITH 2006

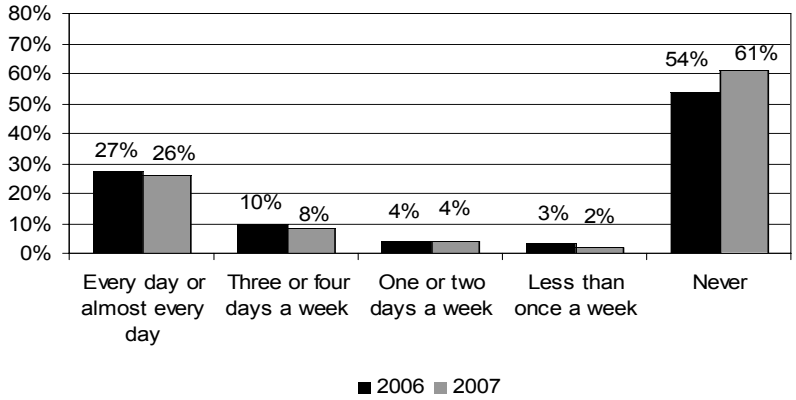

Fig 9.9

Similarly, the viewership of television differs significantly by region. As high a number as 64 percent people living in Central-Kabul watch television every day or almost every day while 42 percent people living in Western region watch television every day or almost every day. Most of the people living in other five regions never watch television.

Now I'll ask you some questions about your viewership of the television. How many days a week do you watch TV, if any? (Q-4, Base 6263) BY REGION

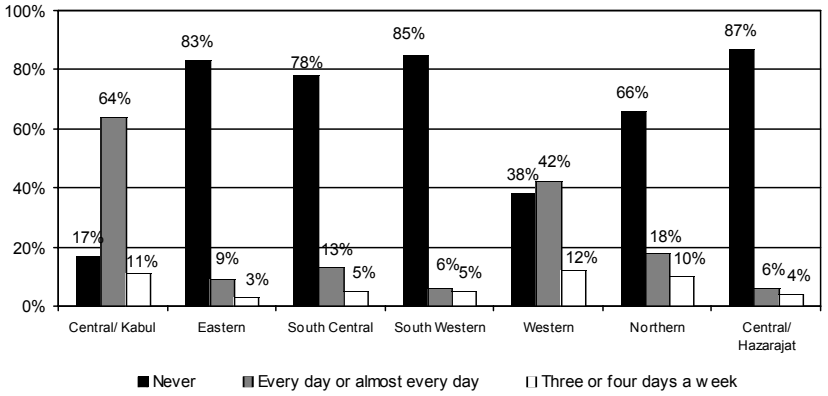

Fig 9.10

A follow-up question on the duration of their viewership was asked to those respondents who mentioned that they watch television in any form of frequency (i.e., 29% of the total respondents). Thirty-nine percent of them mentioned that they watch it more than two hours a day while another 30 percent mentioned that they watch it one hour to two hours. Some 23 percent mentioned 31 minutes to one hour and another 7 percent said less than 30 minutes.

How many hours do you watch it on an average day every time when you watch television? (Q-5a, Base 2466)

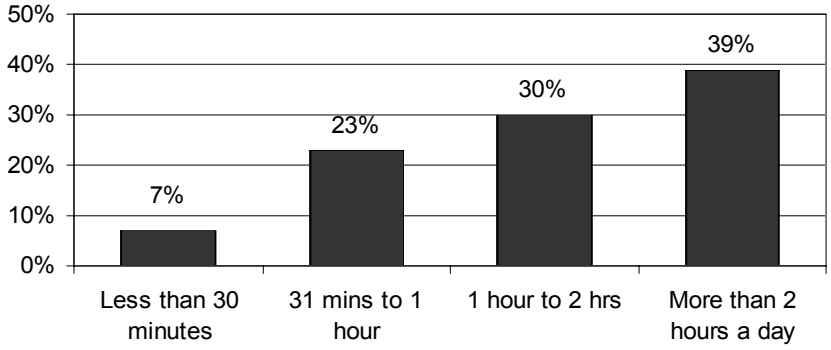

Fig 9.11

Rural/urban settlement has an influence on the length of time for watching television. Most of the rural people (34%) mentioned that they watch television one hour to two hours every day while a little more than half of the urban people (53%) mentioned that they watch television more than two hours every day.

How many hours do you watch it on an average day every time when you watch television? (Q-5a, Base 2466)

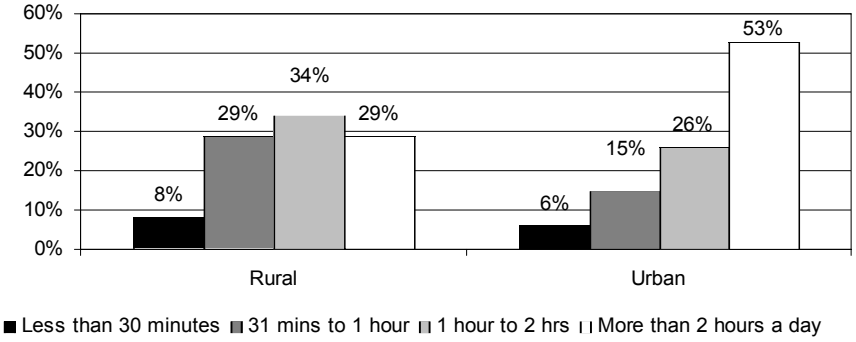

Fig 9.12

Similarly, the length of time for watching television differs by region. As high as 51 percent people living in Central-Kabul watch television more than two hours a day while 45 percent people living in Western region watch television more than two hours a day. Most of the people living in other five regions watch television either one hour to two hours or 31 minutes to one hour.

How many hours do you watch it on an average day every time when you watch television? (Q-5a, Base 2466) BY REGION

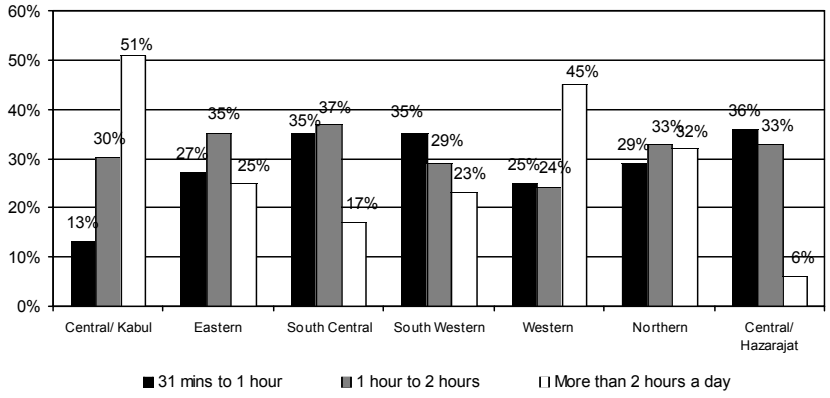

Fig 9.13

A follow-up question "Which TV station do you watch most often?" was asked to those respondents who mentioned that they watch television in any form of frequency

(i.e., 29 percent of the total respondents). Tolo TV is found to be the most watched TV station in Afghanistan. Fifty-one percent of them mentioned this TV station followed by Aryana TV (18%) and TV Afghanistan - Kabul (RTA) (12%).

Which TV station do you watch most often? (Q-5b, Base 2466)

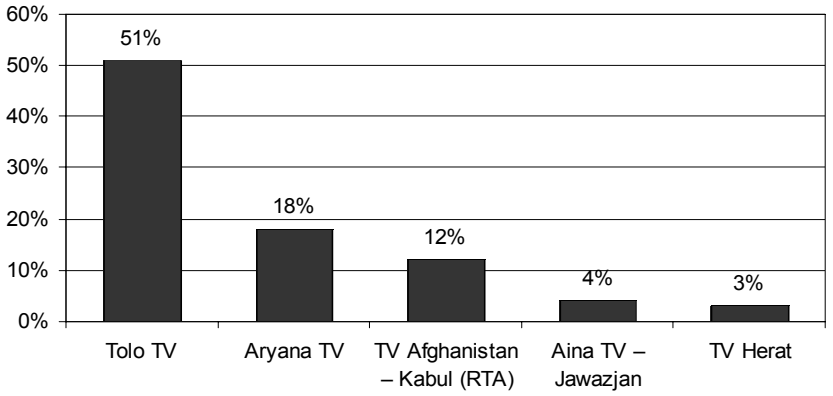

Fig 9.14

Public choice of the TV stations seems to be varied across regions. Even though Tolo TV stands most popular in all seven regions, Aryana TV is almost equally popular in Eastern, South Central and Northern regions. Likewise TV Kandhahar with 21 percent viewers is the second most popular TV station in South Western region after Tolo TV which has 31 percent viewers in the same region.

Which TV station do you watch most often? (Q-5b, Base 2466) BY REGION

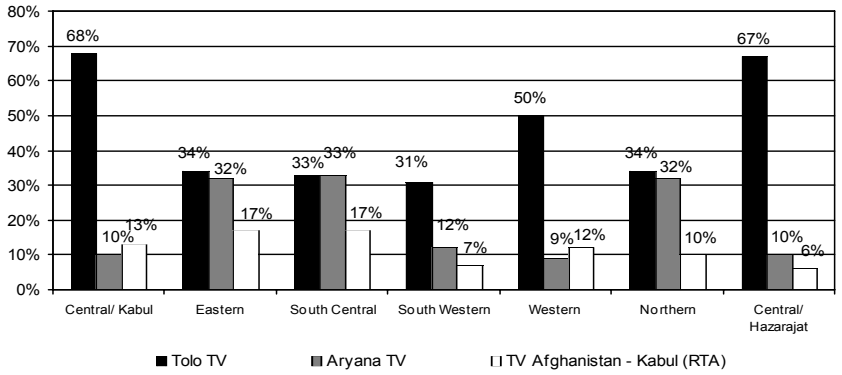

Fig 9.15

During the interview, the respondents were asked to identify the next TV station they watch. After combining the responses obtained for TV stations most often watched and next most often watched it is revealed that Tolo TV is the most popular TV station among Afghan people. Sixty-nine percent of people watch this station in any form followed by Aryana TV (49%) and TV Afghanistan - Kabul (RTA) (29%). A significant number of people also watch Afghan TV (11%).

Which TV station do you watch most often? And which do you watch next most often? (Q-5 b&c, Base 2466)

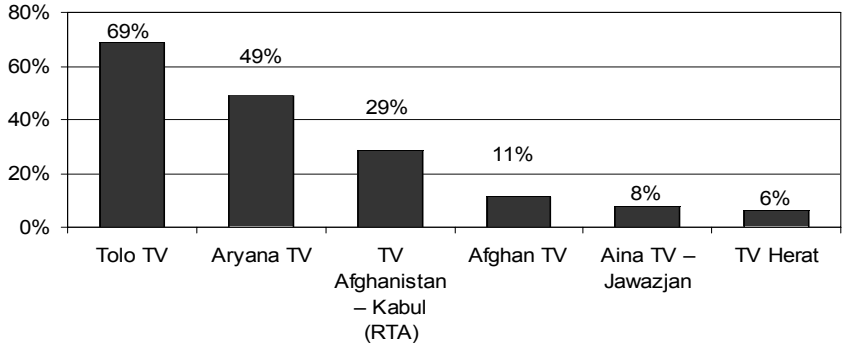

Fig 9.16

When the above figures are compared with the results of 2006 what becomes apparent is that though Tolo continues to be number one, Aryana seems to be increasing in importance - if in 2006 it was in the third position, it has now climbed to the second position.

9.3 Sources of information: National events to local events

The survey endeavoured to identify Afghan people's sources of information about national events. More then half of the people (54%) identified the radio as the main source of getting information followed by TV (26%). Some 14 percent mentioned friends, family and neighbors.

Rural/urban settlement pattern has a significant bearing on the sources of information about national events. As high as 61 percent of rural people normally get information about national events from radio while 64 percent of urban people normally get information about what is happening in the country from television.

Which is the main source from where you normally get information about what is happening in the country? (Q-6, Base 6263)

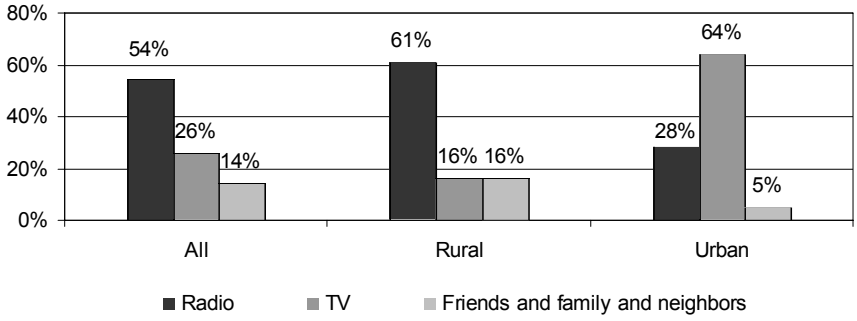

Fig 9.17

Public's response in this regard is similar to that of the 2006 survey. Compared to 2006, TV as the main source for normally getting information about what is happening in the country has significantly increased. If it was 22 percent last year, it is now 26 percent.

Which is the main source from where you normally get information about what is happening in the country? (Q-6, Base 6263) COMPARISON WITH 2006

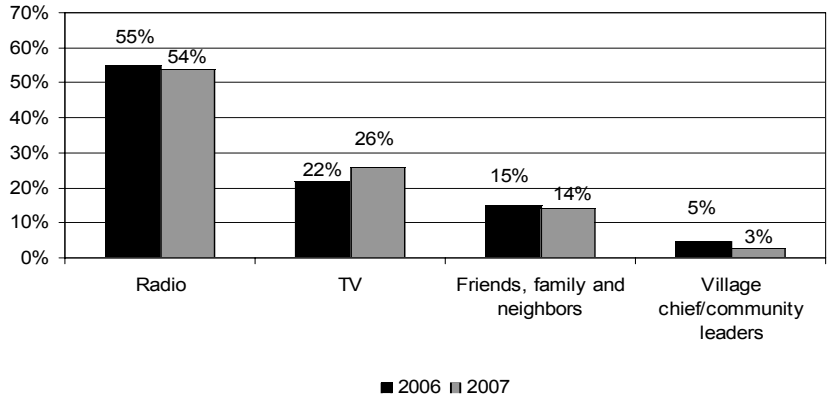

Fig 9.18

Similarly, the sources of information about national events differ by regions. As high as 62 percent people living in Central-Kabul get information from television while most of the people living in other six regions mostly getting information from radio.

Which is the main source from where you normally get information about what is happening in the country? (Q-6, Base 6263) BY REGION

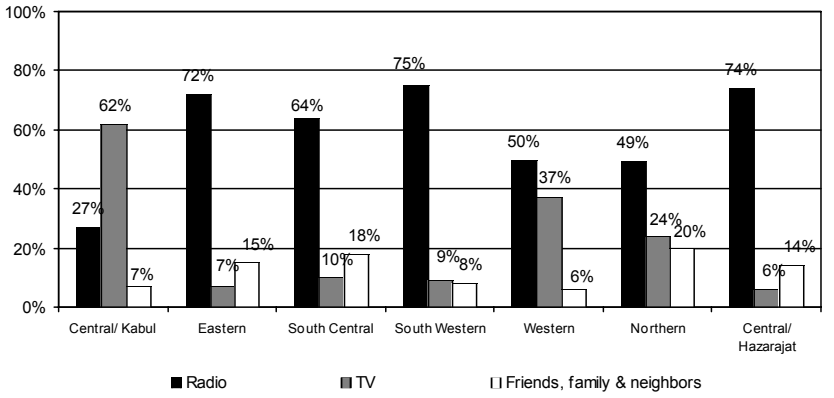

Fig 9.19

In order to identify from which source Afghans get their information about local events, the following question was asked: "If you wanted to find out about something

important happening in your community, who outside your family, would you want to tell you?" In response, 30 percent of the respondents mentioned friends and another 30 percent mentioned neighbors or villagers. A significant proportion of 13 percent mentioned village chiefs or community leaders.

If you wanted to find out about something important happening in your community, who, outside your family, would you want to tell you? (Q-7, Base 6263)

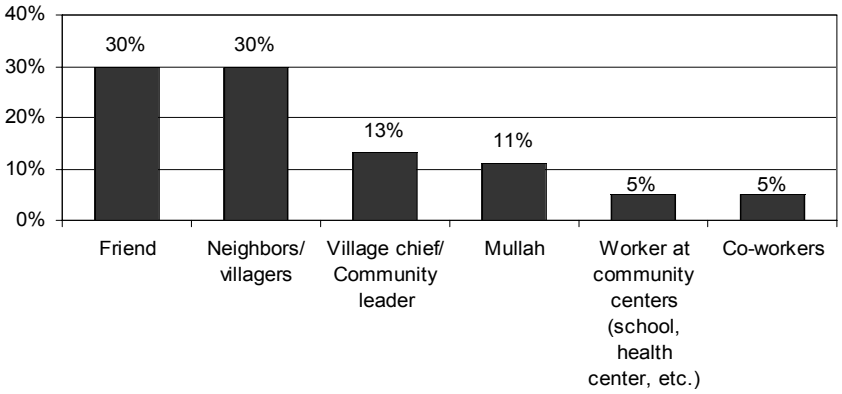

Fig 9.20

The trend is broadly similar to that of 2006 except that the importance of neighbors seems to have declined by four points. It is also worth-mentioning that importance of mullah as a source of information has increased as compared to last year.

If you wanted to find out about something important happening in your community, who, outside your family, would you want to tell you? (Q-7, Base 6263) COMPARISON WITH 2006

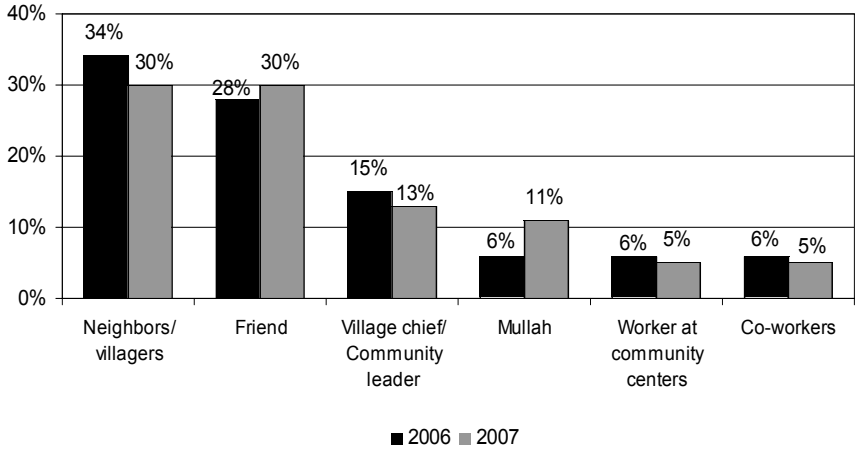

Fig 9.21

9.4 Media use

People get information about news and current events from many different sources. In this context, the survey attempted to ascertain how often people use different sources such as newspaper, magazines, Internet, SMS, meetings in the community and meetings or sermons at mosque to get news and information about current events. Talking about newspaper, almost three-fourth of people (74%) said they never read newspapers to get news and information about current events.

How often you read Newspapers to get news and information about current events? (Q-8a, Base 6263)

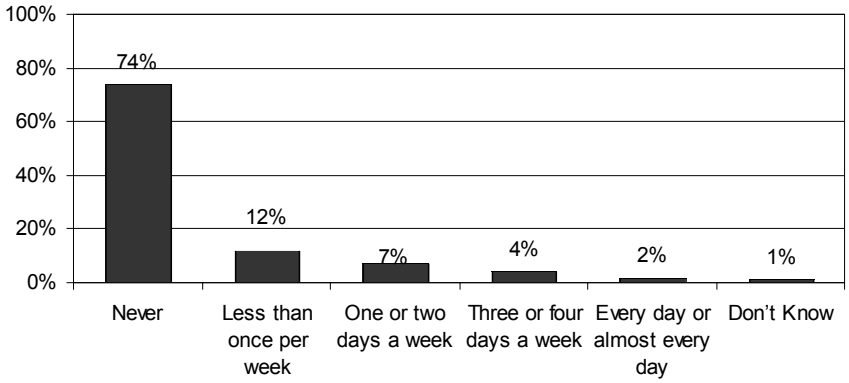

Fig 9.22

Similarly, more than three-fourth (77%) of people never read magazines to get news and information about current events.

As in the case with newspaper, the educational level of individual, significantly affects his/her orientation on this matter. The higher the educational level, the morethe use of magazines to get news and information about current events.

Uses of Internet and SMS are insignificant in Afghanistan for getting news and information about current events is low (viz. 93% never use Internet, 86% never use SMS). However, uses of these two sources of information are more common among the people who have attained higher levels of education.

Meetings in the community are the most important source of information for getting news and information about current events among Afghan people. About 51 percent mentioned that they use meetings in their communities to get news and information about current events. Some 48 percent mentioned that they never do so.

How often you use Meetings in your community to get news and information about current events? (Q-8e, Base 6263)

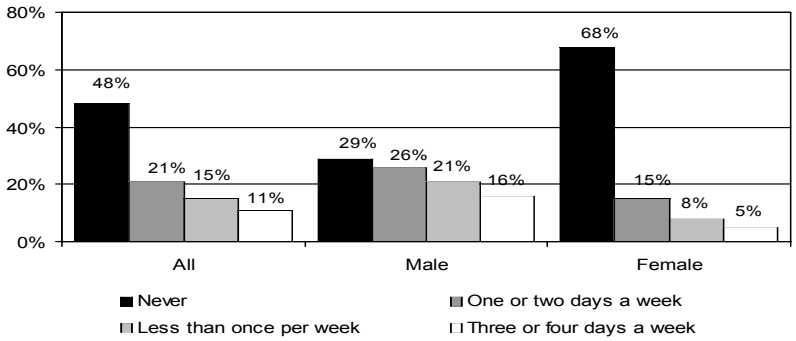

Fig 9.23

However, the importance of meetings in the community for getting news varies for men and women. A higher proportion of men say that they use meetings in their communities for getting news and information about current events while only 30 percent of women said so.

In Afghan society, meetings or sermons at mosque seems to be an important source for getting news and information about current events. About 57 percent mentioned that they use meetings or sermons at mosque to get news and information about current events. An overwhelming majority of men (88%) mentioned that they use meetings or sermons at mosque in any form of frequency for getting news and information about current events in contrast to 15 percent of women who say so.

How often you use Meetings or sermons at your mosque to get news and information about current events? (Q-8f, Base 6263)

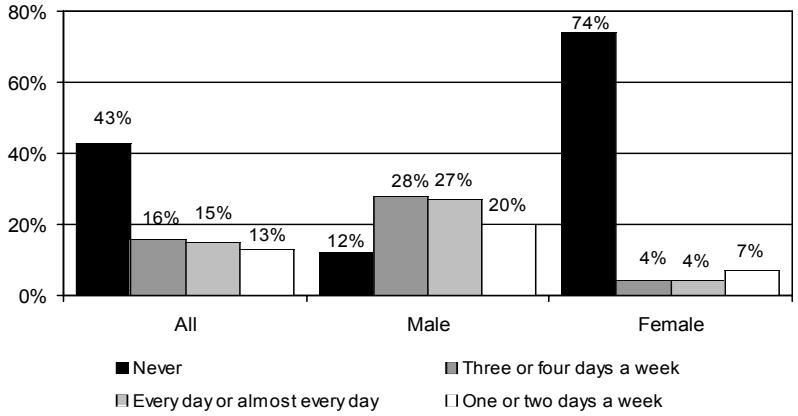

Fig 9.24

10 Appendix 1: Target Demographics

A total of 6263 respondents were surveyed in the study, out of which 4916 (78.5%) were from the rural areas and 1347 (21.5 %) were from the urban areas. Equal percentages of male and females were interviewed (50%) each. The following tables provide demographic and socio-economic details of the respondents with gender classification. They also provide the educational status, religion, and ethnicity of the respondents.

Gender and Region

Characteristics	All	Rural	Urban
Number	6263	4916	1347
Gender	%	%	%
Male	50.0	50.0	50.0
Female	50.0	50.	50.0
Region	%	%	%
Central/Kabul	18.7	9.2	53.3
Eastern	9.7	11.3	3.8
South Central	14.5	18.0	1.6
South Western	9.2	9.5	8.2
Western	11.5	12.0	9.7
Northern	28.9	30.4	23.5
Central/Hazarajat	7.5	9.6	0.0

Employment Status and Age Group

Characteristics	All	Rural	Urban
Number	6263	4916	1347
Gender	%	%	%
Working	42.9	42.6	44.0
Retired	1.2	1.2	1.1
Housewife	39.7	41.1	34.5
Student	8.8	8.1	11.5
Unemployed	7.2	6.7	8.8
Age Group	%	%	%
18 - 24	29.0	28.8	29.5
25 - 34	28.2	28.0	29.0
35 - 44	21.4	21.7	20.1
45 - 54	13.4	13.4	13.5
55+	8.0	8.1	7.9

Main Occupation

Main Occupation	All	Rural	Urban
Number	2761	2154	607
Farmer (own land / tenant farmer)	30.5	35.9	11.5
Farm labourer (other's land)	8.3	9.9	2.5
Labourer, domestic, or unskilled worker	6.2	5.5	8.9
Informal sales/ business	11.6	10.5	15.3
Skilled worker/artisan	10.9	10.9	11.0
Government Office - Clerical worker	5.7	4.5	10.0
Private Office - Clerical worker	2.3	1.8	4.0
Government Office - Executive/ Manager	2.3	1.3	5.8
Private Office - Executive/ Manager	0.9	0.9	0.8
Self-employed Professional	6.6	5.3	11.0
Small business owner	3.2	3.0	3.8
School Teacher	9.6	8.4	13.7
University Teacher	0.3	0.3	0.5
Military/ Police	1.4	1.6	1.0
Other	0.2	0.2	0.2

Base:Currently working and retired respondents

Farming Land

Farming Land	All	Rural	Urban
Number	842	772	70
Less than 1 Jerib	10.2	9.5	18.6
1 - 2 Jerib	21.1	20.7	25.7
2.1- 3 Jerib	26.4	26.9	20.0
More than 3 Jerib	41.3	42.0	34.3

* Base: Farmers who own land or tenant farmers
* Jerib: One Jerib is equal to one fifth of a hectare

Average Household Income

Average Household Income	All	Rural	Urban
Number	6263	4916	1347
Less than 2,000 Afs	12.1	13.3	7.7
2,001 - 3,000 Afs	26.9	27.7	24.3
3,001 - 5,000 Afs	23.6	23.1	25.5
5,001 - 10,000 Afs	21.7	21.1	24.1
10,001 - 15,000 Afs	8.6	8.2	9.8
15,001 - 20,000 Afs	3.4	2.8	5.9
20,001 - 25,000 Afs	0.8	0.7	1.5
25,001 - 40,000 Afs	0.3	0.2	0.5
More then 40,000 Afs	0.3	0.3	0.1

Marital Status

Marital Status	All	Rural	Urban
Number	6263	4916	1347
Single	22.8	22.1	25.7
Married	74.4	74.8	72.9
Widower/ Widow	2.7	3.0	1.4

Academic Qualification

Academic Qualification	All	Rural	Urban
Number	6263	4916	1347
Never went to school	53.2	57.7	36.5
Primary School, incomplete	9.4	9.7	8.4
Primary School, complete	6.3	6.4	6.0
Secondary education, incomplete	6.5	6.2	7.6
Secondary education, complete	5.3	4.8	7.0
High School	16.0	12.9	27.2
University education or above	3.0	1.9	6.8

Religion

Religion	All	Rural	Urban
Number	**6263**	**4916**	**1347**
Sunni	87.3	87.3	87.2
Shia	12.3	12.3	12.5
Ismaeli	0.4	0.4	0.1
Hindu	0.1	0.0	0.2

Ethnicity

Ethnicity	All	Rural	Urban
Number	**6263**	**4916**	**1347**
Pashtun	40.1	43.8	26.7
Tajik	35.1	29.6	55.1
Uzbek	8.1	8.9	5.1
Hazara	10.0	10.6	7.9
Turkmen	3.1	3.2	2.5
Baloch	0.7	0.8	0.4
Kirghiz	0.1	0.1	0.1
Nuristani	1.1	1.3	0.1
Aimak	0.8	0.9	0.6
Arab	0.8	0.7	1.2

11 Appendix 2: Methodology

11.1 Distribution of Sampling Points by Region and Urban/Rural Strata

The survey was conducted among 6263 respondents in a single wave. Fieldwork for the survey was conducted by the Afghan Center for Socio-economic and Opinion Research (ACSOR), Kabul, between June 11 and June 22, 2007 by a team of 494 trained interviewers (248 women and 246 men). The survey consisted of a random, representative sample of 6263 in-person interviews with Afghan citizens 18 years of age and above who were residents in Afghanistan. The survey sample was divided first according to urban and rural characteristics of Afghanistan. The Sheharwali (municipal administration in Afghanistan) defines the urban population as those living within municipal limits. By default, the rural population comprises of those who are living outside the municipal limits. The margin of sampling error is 2.4 percent at 95 percent confidence interval.

The universe is divided into seven geographical regions consisting of 34 provinces. All of the provinces were covered in the survey. The seven regions and the provinces under them are:

Central-Kabul (Kabul, Kapisa, Parwan, Panjsher); **Eastern** (Nangarhar, Kunar, Laghman, Nuristan); **South Central** (Wardak, Logar, Ghazni, Paktika, Paktya, Khost); **South Western** (Helmand, Kandahar, Zabul); **Western** (Badghis, Herat, Farah, Nimroz); **Northern** (Badakhshan, Takhar, Baghlan, Kunduz, Samangan, Balkh, Jawzjan, Sari-Pul, Faryab); **Central-Hazarajat** (Uruzgan, Ghor, Bamyan, Day Kundi).

A multi-stage random sampling procedure was followed in selecting the sample. The sample was distributed proportional to geographical and residential (urban-rural settlement) characteristics of population per province.

Due to the local cultural traditions, the universe at the outset was divided into male and female sub-samples. Each region, province and further strata was allocated an equal number of male and female respondents per sampling points.

The interviews among the male and female respondents were conducted by investigators of the same sex i.e., only women enumerators interviewed woman respondents.

11.2 Selection of Districts/Replacement of Sampling Points

Within each province, the districts were selected by the Probability Proportion Per Size (PPS) systematic random sampling procedure. The districts were first listed in the descending order of population and then the required number of districts was selected from this list of districts in each province based on population size intervals.

The instability and security problems in some provinces at the time of the fieldwork caused a few sampling points to be adjusted or replaced to keep interviewers out of areas with active violence. The places where there were changes in sampling points are as follows:

- Logar (Charkh district was replaced with Khushi district due to security reasons.)
- Ghazni (Giro district was replaced with Muqur; Khugyani was replaced with Jaghatoo; Lashmak was replaced with Mughulan; and Qal-e Anar was replaced with Kashmak all due to security reasons.)
- Paktika (Kurti district was replaced with Karmsh due to security reasons; and Kamkai Sumi was replaced with Hasan Khail due to inability to locate the village.)
- Paktya (Zawaka was replaced with Lamanzi due to security reasons.)
- Kandahar (Maiwand was replaced with Daman; Walikan was replaced with Shin Ghazni Baba; and Mard Qala was replaced with Jood Abad all due to security reasons.)
- Baghdis (Murghab was replaced with Ab-e Kamari due to security reasons.)
- Nimroz (Kang was replaced with CharBurjak; and Kang was replaced with Chukhansoor due to flood.)
- Badakhshan (Darwaz-e Bala was replaced with Shigai; and Wakhan was replaced with Tashigan due to inability to find transportation to the locations.)
- Kapisa (within the district of Kohistan, the village of Cheshma-e-Allahdad was replaced with the village of Kohkham because of transportation problems)
- Takhar (the village of Bulti was replaced with the village of Gaw Mali Kocha Abdullah because of transportation problems.)

The sampling design followed to select the settlements (and starting points), households and finally the respondent is presented in the following sections.

11.3 Selection of Settlements and Starting Points

The settlements within districts were selected randomly by the field director based on the lists of the existing settlements within each district.Each sampling point was assigned a starting point and given direction. The starting points were recognizable locations-such as mosques, schools, bazaars etc., within each of the selected settlements for the survey. The locations were verified by supervisors during the back-checking procedures.

11.4 Household Selection

In urban areas, from the given starting point, the interviewer headed in the assigned direction and stopped at the first street/lane on the right-hand side of his/her route. From there on, the first contacted household was the fourth house on the right from the beginning of the street. Further on, the selected household was each third inhabitable house on the right side of the interviewer route. In blocks of flats, the selection routine was each fifth apartment.
In rural areas, the interviewer started from the center of the village or the bazaar,

mosque, etc., and went to the right selecting each third inhabited house on his/her route. Compounds containing two or more houses behind a common wall were treated like detached houses counting them counter-clock-wise from the gate to the compound.

11.5 Respondent Selection and Substitution

In the selected household, the information about all the household members was first collected. From the list, all the members aged 18 years and above were arranged in descending order of age. One respondent was randomly selected using the KISH grid. In case the selected respondent refused to be interviewed or was not available after call backs, no replacement in the household was done. Instead the interviewer moved on to the next household according to the random walk procedures.

11.6 Call-backs (rate, method, and results)

Typically interviewers were required to make two call-backs before replacing the designated respondent. Due to security-related fears in previous projects the field force has had difficulty meeting the requirement of two call-backs prior to substitution. In this survey, while the field force was able to complete some call-backs, the majority of the interviews were completed on the first attempt (95 percent), 4 percent of the interviews were completed on the second attempt, and 1 percent were completed on the third attempt. Due to the high rate of unemployment, and correct choice of the appropriate time of day for interviewing, completion on the first attempt is the norm in Afghanistan.

11.7 Training of Interviewers

While the fieldwork supervisors were given a briefing/training in Kabul, the training for interviewers was conducted by fieldwork supervisors in their respective provinces. The briefing on the main questions was conducted by ACSOR project managers and field managers with Asia Foundation oversight. The following issues were emphasized during briefing(s):

- Proper household and respondent selection.
- Review of the questionnaire content.
- Appropriate interviewing techniques.
- Conducting mock-call interviews to get a better understanding of the logic and concept of the questions

11.8 Quality Control Methods

After the delivery of the questionnaires from the field, most of the completed questionnaires were subject to logical control for the proper administration. Actual interviewing was monitored directly by a supervisor in 9.4 percent of the sample.

Another 9.3 percent of the completed interviews were back-checked by a supervisor in person. Tow puint three percent of the completed interviews were back-checked from the central office. The issues verified during in-person back-checks were proper household and respondent selection as well as correct recording of answers to five randomly selected questions from the main body of the questionnaire. A total of 17 interviews in the survey were rejected and were not entered in the final data.

11.9 Weighting

The data set includes a weight to adjust for the over-sampling that was conducted in several provinces. A minimum of 100 interviews was targeted for each province, when many would not have received that number. As a result, over-samples were implemented for many provinces. The data was weighted to adjust these over-samples to be representative of the national distribution of the population according to the population statistics available from the Afghan Central Statistics office. Below is the entire list of provinces sampled and the weights they were assigned.

Province	Weighing Factor	
	Rural	Urban
Kabul	1.0297035	1.0425290
Kapisa	1.0647098	-
Parwan	1.0429671	1.0559578
Wardak	1.0289212	-
Logar	0.9394498	-
Ghazni	1.0545864	1.0677217
Paktya	1.0112308	1.0238261
Paktika	1.0754644	-
Khost	1.0759295	1.0893307
Nangarhar	1.0269861	1.0397777
Laghman	1.0647098	-
Kunar	1.0647098	-
Nuristan	0.3757799	-
Badakhshan	1.0242745	1.0370323
Takhar	1.0102772	1.0228607
Baghlan	1.0987817	1.1124676
Kunduz	1.0319623	1.0448158
Balkh	1.0573813	1.0705515
Jawzjan	0.9995899	1.0120403
Sari-Pul	1.0107468	1.0233362
Faryab	1.0562892	1.0694457
Badghis	1.0817907	-
Herat	1.0404393	1.0533985
Farah	0.9906133	1.0029519
Nimroz	0.4378646	0.4433184
Helmand	1.0432144	1.0562081
Kandahar	1.0129911	1.0256084
Zabul	0.7515598	-
Uruzgan	0.8141898	-
Ghor	1.0635281	-
Bamyan	1.0647098	-
Panjsher	0.3757799	-
Day kundi	1.0248543	-

Appendix 3: Interview Discussion Guide

Villages	78%
Towns	4%
City	6%
Metro (Kabul)	11%

Geographic Code

Central/Kabul	19%
Eastern	10%
South Central	15%
South Western	9%
Western	12%
Northern	29%
Central/Hazarjat	7%

Region

Kabul	14%
Kapisa	2%
Parwan	3%
Wardak	2%
Logar	2%
Ghazni	5%
Paktya	2%
Paktika	2%
Khost	2%
Nangarhar	6%
Laghman	2%
Kunar	2%
Nooristan	1%
Badakhshan	4%
Takhar	4%
Baghlan	4%
Kunduz	4%
Balkh	5%

Samangan	2%
Juzjan	2%
Sari-Pul	2%
Faryab	4%
Badghis	2%
Heart	7%
Farah	2%
Nimroz	1%
Helmand	4%
Kandhar	5%
Zabul	1%
Uruzghan	1%
Ghor	3%
Bamyan	2%
Panjsher	1%
Dehkondi	2%

Province

NOTE TO INTERVIEWERS:
REMEMBER THAT THIS IS A CONVERSATION. MAKE THE RESPONDENT COMFORTABLE. MAKE EYE CONTACT

DO NOT TRY TO LEAD THE RESPONDENT DURING THE INTERVIEW OR GET THE "DESIRED" ANSWERS FROM THEM. MAKE SURE YOU TELL THEM THAT THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS, YOU JUST WANT THEIR OPINIONS.

DURING THE INTERVIEW, BE POLITE BUT INQUISITIVE. DO NOT ACCEPT ONE-WORD ANSWERS. DRAW OUT RESPONDENTS TO GIVE DETAILED RESPONSES BY FURTHER PROBING - SAY: "WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?" "ANYTHING ELSE?" "TELL ME MORE."

Introduction

Asalaam Valeikum, I am from ACSOR-Surveys, an independent research organization. We regularly conduct surveys among people like you to find out what you feel about issues of public interest. ACSOR-Surveys has no relation to the government. I just want to ask you some questions about "matters of interest to Afghans". I am interested in your opinion. Your answers will be kept confidential and your name will not be given to anyone and your views will be analyzed along with those of thousands of others.

Q-1 Do you own any of the following here in your household in functioning order?

Radio	88%
Bicycle	58%
Mobile phone	42%
TV set	37%
Motocycle	32%
None of the above	4%
Fixed phone line	3%

Q-2. * I'll ask you some questions about your listener-ship of the radio. How many days a week do you listen to the radio, if any?

Every day or almost every day	48%
Three or four days a week	23%
Never	14%
One or two days a week	11%
Less than once a week	4%
Refused	0%
Don't know	0%

Q-3a. You said that you listen to the radio _____ **(MENTION RESPONSE IN Q-2)**. How many hours do you listen to it on an average day every time when you listen to the radio?

31 mins to 1 hour	32%
1 hour to 2 hrs	28%
More than 2 hours a day	21%
Less than 30 minutes	18%
Don't Know	1%
Refused	0%

Q-3b. ***(Filtered. Ask if answered '1' or '2' or '3' or '4' in Q-2)** To which radio station do you listen most often? **(Single response. Code in the first column of the table below) [Do Not Read Out Answer**s]

Q-3c.* And then which other radio station do you next most often listen to? **(Single response. Code in the second column of the table below) [Do Not Read Out Answers**]

Radio Stations	Q-3b Most often	Q-3b Most often+next most ofen	Radio Stations	Q-3b Mostoften	Q-3b Most often+next most ofen
BBC	24%	42%	Kunduz Radio	0%	0%
Radio Azadi	23%	44%	Naween Radio	0%	0%
Arman FM	15%	23%	Nehad Radio (Balkh)	0%	0%
VOA	8%	17%	Paktika Radio	0%	1%
Radio Afghanistan RTA	6%	12%	Panjshir Radio	0%	0%
Aryana Radio	5%	10%	Peace Radio	1%	1%
Radio VIR Iran	2%	4%	Qoyash Radio	0%	0%
Deutsche Welle	1%	1%	Radio Azad Afghan	0%	0%
Killid FM	1%	3%	Radio Balkh	0%	1%
Nawa Radio	1%	1%	Radio Farah	0%	0%
Radio Ghazni	1%	1%	Radio Good morning Afghanistan	0%	0%
Radio Heart	1%	1%	Radio Helmand	0%	0%
Radio Kandahar	1%	3%	Radio Information	0%	0%
RadioNangarhar	1%	3%	Radio Khost	0%	1%
Radio Sada-I-Solh	1%	1%	Radio Kunar	0%	0%
Radio Sharq	1%	3%	Radio Laghman	0%	0%
Tajikistan Radio	1%	2%	Radio Pakistan	0%	0%
Watandar Radio	1%	4%	Radio Paktia	0%	1%
Zohra Radio	0%	2%	Radio Samangan	0%	0%
All India Radio	0%	1%	Radio Takhar	0%	1%
Fardah Radio	0%	1%	Rana Radio	0%	0%
ISAF Radio	0%	0%	Sabawon Radio (Helmand)	0%	1%
Jaihon Radio	0%	0%	Sahar Radio	0%	1%

Q-4.* **(ASK ALL)** Now I'll ask you some questions about your viewership of the television. How many days a week do you watch TV, if any?

Every day or almost every day	26%
Three or four days a week	8%
One or two days a week	4%
Less than once a week	2%
Never	61%
Refused	0%

Q-5a. You said that you watch television _____ **(MENTION RESPONSE IN Q-4)**. How many hours do you watch it on an average day every time when you watch television?

Less than 30 minutes	7%
31 mins to 1 hour	23%
1 hour to 2 hrs	30%
More than 2 hours a day	39%

5b.* **(Filtered. Ask if answered '1' or '2' or '3' or '4' in Q-4)** Which TV station do you watch most often? **(Single response. Code in the first column of the table below)**

Q-5c.* Which TV station do you watch next most often? **(Single response. Code in the second column of the table below)**

TV Stations	Q-5b Most often	Q-5b&c Most often + Next most often	TV Stations	Q-5b Most often	Q-5b&c Most often + Next most often
TV Herat	3%	6%	Aryana TV	18%	49%
Ghoryan TV- Herat	0%	1%	Lemar TV	2%	5%
Aina TV - Jawazjan	4%	8%	Shamshad TV	2%	4%
TV Afghanistan - Kabul (RTA)	12%	29%	Tamadon TV	0%	0%
TV Kandahar	1%	1%	Nangarhar TV	0%	0%
TV Balkh - Mazar-e-Sharif	0%	1%	Basharat TV (Jabel Saraj)	0%	0%
Tolo TV	51%	69%	Indian TV Channels	1%	2%
Al Jazeera TV	1%	1%	Arezo TV	0%	0%
Pakistan TV	0%	0%	Ashna TV	0%	0%
Uzbekistan TV	0%	1%	Farah TV	0%	0%
Star TV	0%	0%	Paktia TV	0%	0%
Iran TV	2%	3%	Saqi TV (Herat)	0%	1%
TV Tajikistan	0%	1%	Don't know	0%	0%
Afghan TV	2%	11%			

Q-6.* **(ASK ALL)** Which is the main source from where you normally get information about what is happening in the country? **[Do Not Read Out Answers]**

TV	26%
Radio	54%
Newspapers	1%
Village chief/community leaders	3%
School teacher	1%
Religious leader	1%
Friends and family and neighbors	14%
Other	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-7.* If you wanted to find out about something important happening in your community, who, outside your family, would you want to tell you? [Do Not Read Out Answers]

Mullah	11%
Village chief/ Community leader	13%
Worker at community centers (school, health center, etc.)	5%
Friend	30%
Co-workers	5%
Shopkeepers	4%
Neighbors/ villagers	30%
Other	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	2%

Q-8. People get information about news and current events from many different sources. For each one of the sources I mention, please tell me how often you use that source to get news and information about current events: daily/most days a week, 3 or 4 days a week, 1 or 2 days a week, less than once per-week, or never?

SHOW CARD. ROTATE STARTING POINT.	Every day or almost every day	Three or four days a week	One or two days a week	Less than once per week	Never	Refused	Don't Know
a) Newspapers	2%	4%	7%	12%	74%	0%	1%
b) Magazines	1%	3%	6%	12%	77%	0%	1%
c) The Internet	0	1%	1%	2%	93%	0%	2%
d) SMS (text messaging on a mobile phone)	1%	2%	3%	3%	86%	0%	5%
e) Meetings in your comnity	4%	11%	15%	21%	48%	1%	1%
f) Meetings or sermons at your mosque	16%	15%	13%	12%	43%	0%	1%

Q-9.* Generally speaking, do you think things in Afghanistan today are going in the right direction, or do you think they are going in the wrong direction?

Right direction	42%
Wrong direction	24%
Some in right, some in wrong direction	25%
Refused	1%
Don't know	7%

Q-10a.* (Filtered. If '1' in Q-9): Why do you say that things are moving in the right direction? **(Do NOT read codes. Write down answer)**

Q-10b.* (Filtered. If '1' in Q-9): Why else? **(Do NOT read codes. Write down answer)**

	Q-10a. 1st mentioned	Q-10a&b. all mentioned
Peace / end of the war	9%	16%
Disarmament	2%	5%
Good security	20%	34%
Reconstruction / rebuilding	23%	39%
Free movement / travel possible	4%	10%
Economic revival	5%	9%
Freedom / free speech	2%	3%
Democracy / elections	5%	9%
Schools for girls have opened	9%	19%
Women can now work	1%	3%
Women have more freedom	1%	2%
Refugees return	0	1%
Good government	5%	9%
International assistance	3%	5%
Reduction in the level of administrative corruption	1%	3%
Reduction in poppy cultivation	1%	2%
Having active ANA and ANP	3%	7%
Removing terrorism	2%	3%
Having legal constitution	2%	4%
More human rights	0	1%
Road reconstruction	1%	1%
Clinics have been built	0	1%
Development in agriculture	0	1%
More job opportunities available	0	1%
Development in healthcare system in general	0	0
Having Parliament	0	0
More electricity supply now than before	0	0
Don't know	0	0

Q-11a.* (Filtered. If "Wrong direction" in Q-9): Why do you say that things are moving in the wrong direction? (Do NOT read codes. Write down answer)

Q-11b.* (Filtered. If "Wrong direction" in Q-9): Why else? (**Do NOT read codes. Write down answer)**

	Q-11a. 1st mentioned	Q-11a&b. all mentioned
No reconstruction has happened	3%	8%
There is no progress	1%	2%
Lack of aid / no development assistance	1%	3%
Bad economy	5%	12%
Poor education system	2%	5%
Too many foreigners are getting involved	2%	3%
Foreign aid causes problems	1%	2%
Western influence is too great	2%	3%
There is danger to Islam	2%	3%
Neighboring countries cause problems	2%	5%
Bad government	8%	15%
Corruption	7%	13%
Poor leadership	4%	7%
There is unemployment	6%	15%
Presence of Taliban	5%	9%
Lack of coordination between ISAF/ Coalition forces and ANP/ANA during fights with AGE	1%	2%
Administrative corruption	6%	15%
Insecurity	33%	48%
Disarmament didn't take place	1%	3%
Too much luxury	2%	3%
People are disenchanted with the Government	1%	2%
Increase in drug trade	1%	1%
High prices	0%	1%
Innocent people being killed	3%	5%
Kidnapping of children	0%	0%
Ethnic problems	1%	2%
Lack of shelter	0%	0%
Water and power problems	0%	1%
Don't know	0%	0%

Q-12a.* **(ASK ALL)** In your view, what is the biggest problem facing Afghanistan as a whole? **(Do NOT read codes. Write down answer)**

Q-12b.* And after that, what is the next biggest problem? **(Do NOT read codes. Write down answer and then code in the second column below)**

	Q-12a. 1st mentioned	Q-12a&b. all mentioned
Security issues / attacks / violence/ terrorism	32%	46%
Presence of warlords	2%	4%
Presence of Taliban	7%	13%
Poor Economy	9%	19%
Poverty	2%	5%
Unemployment	12%	27%
Reconstruction / rebuilding	1%	3%
Education / schools / literacy	5%	11%
Government / weak government / central authority	2%	4%
Corruption	8%	16%
Scarcity of electricity	2%	4%
Roads	1%	2%
Health care / clinics / hospitals	1%	1%
Drinking water	1%	2%
Water for irrigation	3%	8%
High prices	1%	2%
Lack of (proper) shelter	3%	6%
Drugs smuggling	1%	2%
Crime	4%	7%
Interference of foreign countries	0%	0%
Lack of production companies	0%	0%
Tribal partisanship	1%	2%
Agricultural problems	0%	0%
Transportation problems	0%	0%
Lack of foreign assistance	0%	1%
Inefficient ANA and ANP	0%	1%
Returnees' problems	0%	0%
Disrespect for our culture	0%	0%
Kidnapping of children	0%	0%
Innocent people being killed	0%	1%
No problems	0%	0%
Too much luxury	0%	0%
Low salaries of government employees	0%	0%
Irresponsible armed people	0%	0%
No attention to women rights	0%	0%
Don't know	2%	2%

Q-13a.* What is the biggest problem in your local area? **(Do NOT Read codes. Write down answer)**

Q-13b.* And what is the next biggest problem in your local area? (**Do NOT Read codes. Write down answer and then code in the second column below)**

	Q-13a. First mentioned	**Q-13a&b. All mentioned**
Security issues / attacks / violence	9%	15%
Presence of warlords	1%	2%
Taliban	1%	2%
Poor Economy	4%	9%
Poverty	3%	6%
Unemployment	14%	26%
Reconstruction / rebuilding	2%	4%
Education / schools / literacy	10%	21%
Government / weak government / central authority	1%	2%
Corruption	1%	3%
Electricity	15%	27%
Roads	10%	19%
Health care / clinics / hospitals	7%	17%
Water	11%	21%
High prices	3%	7%
Lack of (proper) shelter	1%	2%
Drugs smuggling	1%	1%
Crime	0	1%
Transportation problems	1%	2%
Lack of agricultural tools /equipment	1%	1%
No problems	0%	0%
Presence of foreigners	0%	0%
Natural disasters	0%	0%
Lack of foreign assistance	0%	0%
Kidnapping of children	0%	0%
Innocent people being killed	0%	0%
Ethnic problems	1%	1%
water for irrigation	0%	1%
Women rights	0%	0%
Don't know	1%	1%

Q-14. Which one of following issues is more critical or important to your needs at present? Please, rank in order of priority, whereby the most important rank as '1', the next important rank as '2' and so on, up to the least important as '5'. **(Show Card and read response**s)

	RANK
a) Roads	51.0
b) Power	50.5
c) Water	50.8
d) Health care	48.6
e) Education	49.1
Refused (volunteered only)	0%
Don't know (volunteered only)	0%

Q-15. Turning to another subject, tell me, do you strongly agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat or strongly disagree with the following statements?

	Some-what agree	**Agree Strongly**	**Disagree Some-What**	**Disagree Strongly**	**Ref. (vol.)**	**DK (vol.)**
a) * I don't think that the government cares much about what people like me think	32%	47%	15%	3%	0%	3%
b) It is generally not acceptable to talk negatively about the Government in public	30%	39%	22%	7%	0%	2%

Q-16 I would like to ask you about today's conditions in the village/neighborhood where you live. Would you rate (insert item here) as very good, quite good, quite bad, or very bad in your area?

	Very good	**Quit good**	**Quit bad**	**Very bad**	**Ref. (vol.)**	**DK (vol.)**
a. The availability of clean drinking water	23%	40%	29%	7%	0%	0%
b. The availability of water for irrigation	18%	41%	30%	10%	0%	2%
c. The availability of jobs	7%	23%	45%	24%	0%	1%
d. The supply of electricity	10%	21%	33%	35%	1%	0%
e. The security situation	25%	41%	23%	10%	0%	0%
f. The availability of medical care	14%	42%	33%	11%	0%	0%
g. The availability of education for children	27%	45%	20%	8%	0%	0%
h. Your freedom of movement-the ability to go where you wish safely	26%	46%	22%	6%	0%	1%

Q-17. **What is your expectation for** (insert item here) i**n your area a year from now? Do you expect it to be much better, somewhat better, somewhat worse, or much worse?** [INTERVIEWER: Start with same item used to start in Q-16]

	Much better	Some what better	Some what worse	Much worse	Ref. (vol.)	DK (vol.)
a. The availability of clean drinking water	45%	40%	10%	3%	0%	2%
b. The availability of water for irrigation	36%	42%	14%	4%	0%	3%
c. The availability of jobs	28%	36%	22%	11%	1%	3%
d. The supply of electricity	28%	33%	21%	15%	0%	2%
e. The security situation	42%	37%	12%	6%	0%	2%
f. The availability of medical care	36%	43%	15%	4%	0%	2%
g. The availability of education for children	46%	39%	9%	4%	0%	1%
h. Your freedom of movement-the ability to go where you wish safely	42%	40%	11%	4%	0%	3%

Q-18.* How often do you fear for your own personal safety or security or for that of your family these days? Often, sometimes, rarely, or never?

Often	11%
Sometimes	38%
Rarely	20%
Never	30%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-19.* Have you or has anyone in your family been a victim of violence or of some criminal act in your home or community in the past year?

Yes	16%
No	82%
Refused	1%
Don't know	1%

Q-20. **(Filtered. Ask if answered '1' in Q-19)** What kind of violence or crime did you or someone in your family experience in the past year? **READ LIST (Multiple Response**

Physical attack or beating	30%
Racketeering / extortion	13%
Burglary/looting	17%
Pick-pocketing	13%

Motor vehicle theft / Property taken from your vehicle or parts of the vehicle stolen	6%
Kidnapping	4%
Livestock stolen	15%
Militants/Insurgent actions	5%
Police actions	5%
Army actions	1%
Foreign forces actions	3%
Murder	1%
Suicide attack	0%
Other	0%

Q-21. **(Filtered. Ask if answered '1' in Q-19)** You said that you've been a victim of violence or some criminal act in the past year. Did you report it to any authority?

Yes	63%
No	36%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-22. **(Filtered. Ask if answered "Yes" in Q-21)** To what agency or institution did you report the crime? **(Multiple Response) [Do Not Read Responses, Record All That Respondent Mentions, Specify If Other Mentioned] Write Down All Mentioned By Respondent, Cod**e

Afghan National Army	12%
Afghan National Police	46%
Shura/ Elders	13%
Local militia (police)	3%
Tribal leader / Malik	19%
Local Commander or Warlord	7%
Mullah Saheb	11%
Local PRT	0%
Office of UN organization(s)	0%
Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission	2%
District Governor/ Woleswal	25%
Provincial authority	9%
Central Government	2%
Public prosecutor	5%
Courts	2%
Press or other media	1%
Refused	0%

Q-23. **(Ask if answered "No" in Q-21)** Why didn't you report the crime?
(Multiple Response)
[Do Not Read Responses, Record All That Respondent Mentions, Specify If Other Mentioned]. Write Down All Mentioned By Respondent, Code

It makes no difference	23%
Danger or fear of retaliation	17%
Lack of evidence	9%
It wasn't serious	30%
Didn't know where to report it	9%
Lack of trust in government officials	16%
Lack of legal counsel	3%
Other	0%
Refused	0%

Q-24. BLANK

Q-25. **(ASK ALL)** If you were a witness to a crime, to whom would you report it?
(Multiple Response)
[Do Not Read Responses, Record All That Respondent Mentions, Specify If Other Mentioned]Write Down All Mentioned By Respondent, Code

Afghan National Army	18%
Afghan National Police	51%
Shura/ Elders	14%
Local militia (police)	4%
Tribal leader / Malik	19%
Local Commander or Warlord	6%
Mullah Saheb	10%
Local PRT	1%
Office of UN organization(s)	1%
Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission	2%
District Governor/ Woleswal	18%
Provincial authority	7%
Central Government	3%
Public prosecutor	5%
Courts	4%
Press or other media	1%
No one	1%
Refused	0%

Q-26. If you were a victim of violence or any criminal act, how much confidence would you have that the governmental law-enforcing organizations and judicial systems would punish the guilty party? [Read Out Answers]

A lot of confidence	17%
Some confidence	43%
A little confidence	26%
No confidence at all	11%
Refused	0%
Don't know	3%

Q-27. Please tell me whether you think that corruption is a major problem, a minor problem, or no problem at all in the following areas. **(Circle '8' for Refused (volunteered only) or '9' for Don't know (volunteered only) if volunteered.)**

	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not a Problem	Refused Vol.	Don't Vol.
a. In your daily life	47%	30%	22%	0%	1%
b. In your neighborhood	43%	39%	17%	0%	1%
c. In your local authorities	48%	39%	11%	1%	2%
d. In your provincial government	60%	30%	8%	1%	2%
e. In Afghanistan as a whole	74%	19%	4%	0%	2%

Q-28. Compared to a year ago, do you think the amount of corruption overall in … **(Read out options below one by one)** has increased, stayed the same or decreased in the following areas?

	Increased	Stayed the same	Decreased	Refused Vol	Don't know Vol
a. In your daily life	21%	55%	22%	1%	2%
b. In your neighborhood	21%	54%	22%	1%	2%
c. In your local authorities	31%	48%	17%	1%	2%
d. In your provincial government	45%	37%	14%	1%	3%
e. In Afghanistan as a whole	57%	28%	11%	1%	3%

Q-29. Whenever you have contacted government officials, how often in the past year have you had to give cash, a gift or perform a favor for an official? If you had contacts with such officials in the past year. Was it in all cases, most of the cases, in isolated or in no cases? How about your contacts with…. (Rotate items on the list)

	In all cases	Most cases	Isolated cases	No cases	Had no contacts	Ref.	DK
a) Officials in the Municipality	3%	6%	10%	24%	55%	1%	1%
b) Customs office	2%	4%	6%	22%	64%	1%	1%
c) Afghan National Police	2%	7%	16%	31%	43%	0%	1%
d) Afghan National Army	1%	3%	7%	34%	53%	1%	1%
e) Judiciary / courts	3%	7%	13%	24%	51%	1%	1%
f) State electricity supply	2%	7%	13%	23%	54%	1%	1%
g) Public healthcare service	3%	10%	17%	36%	33%	0%	1%
h) When applying for a job	4%	11%	11%	23%	49%	1%	1%
i) Admissions to schools/university	2%	6%	9%	33%	48%	1%	1%
j) To receive official documents	5%	7%	12%	23%	51%	1%	1%

Q-30. Now I will read you five different activities that you could participate in. Please, tell me, whether you would participate in the following activities with 'no fear', 'some fear' or a 'lot of fear'?

	No fear	Some fear	A lot of fear	Refused (vol.)	Don't know (vol.)
a) When participating in resolving problems in your community	59%	32%	6%	1%	2%
b) Voting in a national election	53%	33%	11%	1%	1%
c) Participating in a peaceful demonstration	34%	37%	24%	2%	4%
d) To run for a public office	36%	36%	20%	3%	5%
e) When encountering ANP officers	46%	35%	14%	2%	3%

Q-31.* Do most people feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live?

Yes	40%
No	42%
Refused	2%
Don't know	16%

Q-32. **(Filtered. Ask if answered '1' in Q-31)** What changes compared with the past, or reasons, do you think have made most people to feel free to express their political opinions in the area where you live? **Pre-coded. Do NOT read out. Write down up to two answers and code to the list**

	Q-32a First mentioned	Q-32a&b All mentioned
The removal of local militias	2%	3%
Freedom of speech is guaranteed	42%	60%
The security conditions are good (in our area)	28%	45%
Having (working) parliament and local shuras	1%	2%
Peace and democracy	13%	26%
Presence of ISAF / Coalition forces	1%	1%
Presence of CDC	1%	2%
Presence of PC	1%	1%
(Respect for) Human rights	1%	3%
Disarmament	1%	4%
Reconstruction	1%	1%
Freedom of press is guaranteed	2%	5%
Having a legal constitution	3%	6%
Corruption has decreased	0%	1%
Better attention to Women rights	1%	2%
Don't know	2%	2%

Q-33. **(If answered "No" in Q-31)** Why don't people in your area have the freedom to express their political opinions? **Pre-coded. Do NOT read out. Write down up to two answers and code to the list**

	Q-33a First mentioned	Q-33a&b All mentioned
Fear for their safety	23%	34%
Women are under the control of men	2%	4%
Security conditions are bad in this area	24%	36%
Presence of Taliban in the area	13%	25%
Presence of warlords	10%	18%
The Government doesn't allow freedom of political opinions	13%	22%
No real democracy	2%	4%
No disarmament	1%	2%
Fear from Coalition/foreign forces	1%	3%
Ethnic discrimination	1%	2%
Elders / Mullahs don't allow freedom of opinions	2%	4%
Lack of awareness of legal rights	2%	5%
Hate politics	1%	2%
The Government doesn't care about peoples opinion	0%	1%
Refused	0%	0%
Don't know	3%	3%

Q-34. **(ASK ALL)** Speaking of the past 12 months, do you know of, heard of any project or program, implemented with the foreign aid in this area, district, in the following fields?

	Yes	No	Ref.	DK
a) Reconstruction/ building of roads, bridges	56%	43%	0%	1%
b) Water supply for drinking	40%	59%	0%	1%
c) Water supply for irrigation	25%	73%	0%	2%
d) Electricity supply	25%	73%	0%	2%
e) Healthcare (primary health center, regular visits of doctors, etc.)	45%	53%	0%	2%
f) Education (reconstruction/opening of school, more teachers etc.)	59%	39%	0%	2%
) De-mining	37%	58%	1%	3%
h) Demilitarization / disarmament	34%	61%	1%	4%
i) Reconstruction/programs in agriculture	21%	74%	1%	4%
j) Reconstruction/programs in industry	11%	83%	1%	5%
k) Building new mosques	28%	69%	1%	2%
l) Humanitarian programs - help in food, medicines, shelter, production materials etc.	23%	73%	1%	3%

Q-35a. Which country do you think has provided the most aid for the projects you mentioned to have been implemented in this area, district? (Single response) **[Do Not Read List]**

USA	44%
United Kingdom (Britain)	3%
Germany	8%
Japan	10%
India	5%
Pakistan	1%
China	2%
Iran	2%
Saudi Arabia	2%
Turkey	3%
Italy	2%
Korea	0%
Canada	2%
France	0%
Sweden	0%
Spain	0%
Africa	0%
Norway	0%
Bangladesh	0%
Denmark	0%
Uzbekistan	0%
Tajikistan	0%
Belgium	0%
Turkmenistan	0%
Other	0%
Has not heard of any aid projects	8%
Refused	0%
Don't know	7%

Q-35b. Which other countries have provided aid for the projects in your area, district? PROBE: Any other? (**Multiple response) [Do Not Read List]**

USA	21%
United Kingdom (Britain)	11%
Germany	23%
Japan	25%
India	19%
Pakistan	3%
China	9%
Iran	11%
Saudi Arabia	5%

Turkey	8%
Italy	4%
Korea	2%
Canada	6%
France	0%
Sweden	0%
Spain	0%
Norway	0%
Denmark	0%
Hungary	0%
Uzbekistan	0%
Tajikistan	0%
Belgium	0%
Turkmenistan	0%
Did not hear of any aid projects	8%
Refused	0%
Don't know	13%

Q-36.* Now I would like to ask you a few questions about the economy of Afghanistan. If you think about your family, would you say that today your family is more prosperous, less prosperous, or about as prosperous as under the Taliban government?

More prosperous	49%
Less prosperous	28%
About as prosperous	14%
Absent during Taliban rule	8%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q37. Now, going even farther back to the period of the Soviet occupation, if you think about your family then and now, would you say that today your family is more prosperous, less prosperous, or about as prosperous as under the Soviet occupation government?

More prosperous	45%
Less prosperous	26%
About as prosperous	12%
Absent during Soviet rule/ occupation	12%
Refused	0%
Don't know	5%

Q-38. At this house where you live, which of the following kinds of electricity supply do you have? **(Read out options. Code each that apply. Multiple response)**

Personal Generator	23%
Public/Shared Use Generator	11%
State electricity provider	22%
Large batteries/invertors (such as for running TV, lights, etc.)	7%
No electricity	41%
Refused	0%
Don't know	0%

Q-39. Compared to two years ago, would you say that situation for your household has gotten better, remained the same or gotten worse with respect to the fol lowing?

	No fear	Some fear	A lot of fear	Refused (vol.)	Don't know (vol.)
a) Financial well-being of your household	39%	51%	10%	0%	0%
b) Employment opportunities	16%	42%	40%	1%	1%
c) Availability of products in the market	25%	46%	23%	2%	3%
d) Quality of your food diet	32%	50%	17%	1%	1%
e) Physical conditions of your house/dwelling	29%	52%	18%	0%	1%
f) Health well-being of your family members	43%	45%	11%	0%	1%
g) Electric supply	18%	38%	41%	2%	1%
h) Access to schools	51%	36%	12%	0%	1%

Q-40. Have you ever heard of the process called "privatization"?

Yes	41%
No	55%
Refused	0%
0't know	4%

Q-41. Privatization means the selling of state owned businesses to private individuals. Do you think privatization is a good idea or is a bad idea for Afghanistan?

Good idea for Afghanistan	41%
Bad idea for Afghanistan	41%
Refused	1%
Don't know	17%

Q-42. **(Filtered. Ask if '1' in Q-41):** Why do you say that privatization is a good idea? DO NOT READ **(Pre-cod ed. Write down up to two responses and code)**

	Q-42a First mentioned	Q-42a&b All mentioned
Privatization paves ground for investments	22%	26%
Improves economic situation of the people	30%	47%
Will provide better business environment in the country	7%	11%
It helps reconstruction of Afghanistan	12%	28%
Products made by private businesses are of higher quality	3%	6%
Improves infrastructure	6%	17%
Improves economic capabilities/leverage of the government	5%	12%
Helps education system	4%	12%
Promotes competition	4%	13%
Reduces corruption	5%	22%
Creates job opportunities	1%	2%
Other	0%	0%
Don't know	0%	0%

Q-43. **(Filtered. Ask if answered '2' in Q-41):** Why do you say that privatization is a bad idea? DO NOT REA**D (Pre-cod ed. Write down up to two responses and code)**

	Q-43a First mentioned	Q-43a&b All mentioned
The rich will be come richer and the poor poorer	28%	35%
It will reduce job opportunities	27%	44%
The current situation is not favorable for privatization	9%	16%
It will hurt the economy/economic leverage of the government	9%	18%
It is in the interest of one/few individual(s) (not the society)	12%	27%
It will increase prices	11%	41%
It will create ethnic discrimination	3%	12%
Other	0%	0%
Don't know	1%	0%

Q-44. **(ASK ALL**) Some people say that poppy cultivation is okay, and that the government should not worry too much about it, while others say that it is wrong, and that the government should do more to stop it. Which is closer to your view?

Poppy cultivation is okay	16%
Poppy cultivation is wrong	80%
Refused	1%
Don't know	4%

Q-45. **(Filtered. Ask if '1' in Q-44):** Why do you say that poppy cultivation is okay? DO NOT READ **(Open ended. Write down up to two responses)**

	Q-45a First mentioned	**Q-45a&b All mentioned**
Growing poppy is more profitable than growing other crops	30%	39%
Working on poppy farm is more profitable than other jobs	8%	13%
To make medicines from poppy	20%	34%
Needs less water	15%	37%
The Government doesn't pay attention to farmers	12%	28%
Instead of wine, we produce poppy	4%	10%
People get employed	10%	34%
Other	0%	1%
Don't know	0%	0%

Q-46. **(Filtered. Ask if answered "poppy cultivation is wrong" in Q-44):** Why do you say that poppy cultivation is wrong? **DO NOT READ (Open ended.) Write down up to two responses**

	Q-46a First mentioned	Q-46a&b All mentioned
Poppy makes some people rich, but keeps most Afghans poor	5%	7%
In Islam poppy cultivation is a sin (haram)	37%	50%
According to the laws, poppy cultivation is a crime	9%	17%
People become addicted to opium	15%	35%
It misguides the youth / hurts education or job prospects	11%	25%
It causes high prices	5%	15%
It's detrimental to Afghanistan's reputation	7%	17%
It's a source of income for terrorists	3%	10%
It creates corruption among government officials	2%	6%
It's deterring international assistance	1%	4%
Poppy cultivation causes insecurity in our country	3%	8%
Poppy cultivation hurts other farmers	1%	4%
Other	0%	0%
Refused	0%	0%
Don't know	0%	0%

Q-47. **(ASK ALL)** Now, to change the subject. Sometimes people and communities have problems, related to an issue that concerns everybody in their area, that they can't resolve on their own and so they have to ask for the help of a government official or a government agency. In the past 5 years, has your community had such a problem in your area that you had to ask for help or cooperation to resolve it?

Yes	16%
No	80%
Refused	1%
Don't know	3%

Q-48. **(Filtered. If answered 'Yes' to Q-47)**. What kind of problem was/is that? **Open-ended. Write down first mentioned answer**

Lack of water and electricity	20%
Dispute over land	28%
Building mosque	3%
Reconstruction of roads and bridges	9%
Building clinics	3%
Building schools and kindergartens	3%
Robbery and burglary	7%
Poor transportation system	1%
Economic problems	3%
Unemployment	2%
Tribal problems	5%
Presence of Taliban	3%
Security problems	8%
Agricultural problems	2%
Murder	1%
Disarmament	0%
Refused	1%
Don't know	2%

Q-49. **(Filtered. Ask if '1' in Q-47):** Who did you approach/ask to solve the problem? **(Multiple response. Code each mentioned) [Do Not Read List, Write Answer Then Code Response]**

Elders of the local shura/jirga	48%
A member of Parliament	33%
A ministry, public office or government agency	9%
Afghan National Army	15%
Afghan National Police	24%
Malik / Khan	16%
Provincial governor/ authorities	22%
Community Development Council	6%
District authorities	26%
PRT	3%
NGO	8%
Human Rights Commission	4%
Foreign forces	8%
Public health office	2%
Courts	2%
Directorship of Ministry of electricity and water supply	1%
Refused	1%
Don't know	0%

Q-50. **(Filtered. If answered 'Yes' to Q-47)** Has this problem been resolved or it's still pending resolution?

Resolved	48%
Pending resolution	51%
Refused	1%
Don't Know	1%

Q-51. **(ASK ALL)** Are you member of any formal association or organization, not including the place where you work for money?

Yes	12%
No	86%
Refused	1%
Don't Know	1%

Q-52. **(Filtered. If answered 'Yes' to Q-51)** What association or organization are you a member of? **DO NOT READ LIST (Multiple response. Code each mentioned)**

Youth association	19%
Student association	15%
Women association	11%
Sports and recreational club	9%
Social club	6%
Religious association (non-political)	7%
Trade union	4%
Farmer samity	19%
Non-religious charity group	1%
Trade association	3%
Teacher association	12%
Writer / journalist association	2%
Refused (volunteered only)	0%
Don't know (volunteered only)	0%

Q-53. **(ASK ALL)** Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people?

Most people can be trusted	40%
With most people you need to be very careful	56%
Refused	1%
Don't know	3%

Q-54. Do you believe that in most instances people are only thinking about them selves or do you believe that in the most instances people try to help others?

They think about themselves	62%
They try to help others	36%
Refused	1%
Don't know	2%

Q-55. I would like to ask you about some officials, institutions and organizations in our country. I will read these out to you. As I read out each, please tell me how much confidence you have in each of the institutions and organizations and offi cials to perform their jobs. Do you have a great deal of confidence, a fair amount of confidence, not very much confidence, or no confidence at all in…

	A great deal of confidence	A fair amount of confidence	Not very much confidence	No confidence at all	Refused (vol.)	Don't Know (vol.)
a) Afghan National Army	45%	43%	9%	2%	0	1%
b) Afghan National Police	39%	44%	14%	3%	0	1%
c) Political parties	8%	31%	37%	21%	0	3%
d) The Government Justice system	9%	39%	35%	15%	0	2%
e) Government Ministers	13%	45%	30%	10%	0	2%
f) Public administration	14%	47%	28%	9%	0	3%
g) the Municipality	10%	38%	32%	16%	1%	3%
h) Local militias	9%	24%	28%	35%	1%	2%
i) Community Development Councils	19%	45%	22%	8%	1%	5%
j) Provincial Councils	22%	47%	21%	7%	1%	2%
k) Community Shuras/ Jirgas	25%	46%	19%	6%	1%	3%
l) National NGOs	16%	43%	27%	10%	1%	3%
m) International NGOs	23%	42%	23%	10%	1%	2%
n) Electronic media such as radio, TV	33%	41%	16%	6%	1%	3%
o) Newspapers, print media	22%	40%	20%	8%	1%	9%

Q-56. I'm going to read some statements to you about ANP. Please tell me if you agree with each. **(Read out statement, wait for response and then ask):** Strongly or somewhat?

	Strongly agree	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Strongly disagree	Refused (vol.)	DK (vol.)
a) ANP is honest and fair with the Afghan people.	45%	41%	11%	3%	0%	1%
b) ANP is unprofessional and poorly trained.	27%	38%	23%	10%	0%	1%
c) ANP needs the support of foreign troops and cannot operate by itself.	41%	36%	14%	7%	0%	2%
d) ANP helps improve the security	49%	37%	10%	3%	0%	1%

Q-57. I'm going to read some statements to you about ANA. Please tell me if you agree with each. **(Read out statement, wait for response and then ask):** Strongly or somewhat?

	Strongly agree	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Strongly disagree	Refused (vol.)	DK (vol.)
a) ANA is honest and fair with the Afghan people.	52%	38%	7%	1%	0%	1%
b) ANA is unprofessional and poorly trained.	25%	37%	26%	10%	0%	2%
c) ANA needs the support of foreign troops and cannot operate by itself.	40%	37%	14%	7%	0%	2%
d) ANA helps improve the security	54%	35%	7%	3%	0%	1%

Q-58.* Now I'd like to ask about something else. A lot of people in Afghanistan today are talking about democracy. If a country is called a democracy, what does that mean to you? **(Probe):** Anything else? **(Open ended. Multiple response. Do Not Read Code List. Write down and then code each mentioned**

Freedom	51%
Rights and law	26%
Government of the people	25%
Peace	33%
Prosperity	13%
Elections	14%
Women's rights	18%
Communism	2%
Islamic democracy	20%
Participation in decision making	9%
Nothing	0%
Democracy promotes cheap values and bad habits	0%
Good security	0%
I don't want democracy	0%
Access to more schools	0%
More job opportunities	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	4%

Q-59.* What, if anything, is the most important thing that democracy in Afghanistan will bring you personally? **(Probe):** Anything else? **(Open ended. Multiple response. Do Not Read Code List Write down and then code each mentioned)**

Freedom	30%
Rights and law	23%
Government of the people	22%
Peace	34%
Prosperity	16%
Elections	12%
Women's rights	17%
Communism	2%
Islamic democracy	22%
Less corruption	21%
Better Government services	13%
Democracy promotes cheap values and bad habits	0%
Good security	1%
I don't want democracy	0%
Access to more schools	0%
Good relations with other countries	0%
More job opportunities	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	4%

Q-60.* Do you think that political parties should be allowed to hold meetings in your area?

Yes	46%
No	47%
Refused	0%
Don't know	6%

Q-61.* Do you think that all political parties, even the ones most people do not like, should be allowed to hold meetings in your area?

Yes	31%
No	63%
Refused	1%
Don't know	6%

Q-62.* Suppose a friend of yours supported a party you do not like. Would you accept that, or would it end your friendship?

Would accept it	54%
Would end friendship	37%
Refused	2%
Don't know	8%

Q-63.* I'm going to read some ideas. Please tell me if you agree with each. (Read-out) statement, wait for response and then ask): Strongly or somewhat?

	Strongly agree	**Agree somewhat**	**Disagree somewhat**	**Strongly disagree**	**Refused (vol.)**	**DK (vol.)**
a) It is a good thing that the government should allow peaceful opposition	41%	40%	9%	6%	0%	3%
b) Everyone should have equal rights under the law, regardless of their gender, ethnicity or religion	61%	29%	7%	2%	0%	1%
c) Religious authorities should lead people in obeying the obligations of their faith while political leaders should make decisions about how the government is run	43%	37%	12%	6%	0%	2%

Q-64.* Some people say: "Democracy will bring Westernization and too much freedom and challenge Islamic values." Other people say: "An Islamic country can be democratic without becoming too Western. It can still keep its Islamic values". Which is closer to your view?

Democracy challenges Islamic values	29%
Democracy can be Islamic also	66%
Refused	0%
Don't know	5%

Q-65a. Thinking of the National/ Central Government, how do you feel about the way it is carrying out its responsibilities? Is it doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job?

Very good job	25%
Somewhat good job	55%
Somewhat bad job	14%
Very bad job	3%
Refused	0%
Don't know	3%

Q-65b. And speaking of particular aspects of its work, do you think the National/ Central Government is doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job in the following fields? (Ask for each on the list)

	Very Good Job	Somewhat good job	Somewhat bad job	Very bad job	Refused	Don't Know
a) Education	42%	46%	9%	2%	0%	0%
b) Healthcare system	23%	49%	23%	5%	0%	0%
c) Creating job opportunities	8%	27%	39%	25%	0%	1%
d) Maintaining relations with neighboring countries	23%	45%	21%	8%	0%	3%
e) Reviving/ Developing the economy	11%	35%	35%	18%	0%	1%
f) Fighting corruption	12%	24%	31%	33%	0%	1%

Q66a. Turning to your Provincial Government, do you think that overall it is doing avery good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job?

Q66b And what do you think about the job done by your municipal authorities, do you think that overall it is doing a very good job, somewhat good job, somewhat bad job or a very bad job?

	A Very Good Job	Somewhat good job	Somewhat Bad Job	A Very Bad Job	Refused (vol.)	DK (vol.)
Q66(a) Provincial Government	24%	56%	14%	4%	0%	2%
Q66(b) Municipal authorities	14%	43%	27%	11%	0%	4%

Q-67. Now I would like to ask you about women in your community. Some people say that to respect Afghan traditions and Islam, women should usually wear a burka outside the home, while others say that times are changing, and women should be able to move freely outside the home without a burka Which is closer to your view?

Women should usually wear a burka	60%
Wearing a burka is not necessary	38%
Refused	1%
Don't know	1%

Q-68. Do you think that the use of the burka in Afghanistan is more related to Afghan tradition and culture, or is it more related to the requirements of Islam?

Tradition and culture	52%
Duty of Islam	46%
Refused	0%
Don't know	2%

Q-69. Now switching to local government, some people say that local religious lead ers should be regularly consulted on the problems facing an area while others think that politics and religion should not mix. Which is closer to your view?

Religious leaders should be consulted	60%
Politics and religion should not mix	36%
Refused	0%
Don't know	4%

Q-70.* How much influence do you think someone like you can have over government decisions - a lot, some, very little, or none at all?

A lot	13%
Some	40%
Very little	21%
None at all	21%
Refused	0%
Don't know	4%

Q-71. Do you think that voting can lead to improvement in the future or do you believe that no matter how one votes, things never change?

Vote can change things	72%
Things are not going to get better	24%
Refused	0%
Don't know	4%

Q-72. In the past, elections were managed jointly by international donors and the Afghanistan Government, but future elections will be managed entirely by the Afghanistan Government. How confident are you that the Afghan Government on its own will be able to conduct free and fair elections? Are you…

Very confident	19%
Somewhat confident	52%
Somewhat not confident	10%
Not confident at all	12%
Refused	5
Don't know	2%

Q-73. (Filtered. If answered '3' or '4' to Q-72) You said you are not confident the Government to be able to conduct free and fair elections on its own. What makes you think so? (Open-ended. Write down the answer)

Lack of security	24%
Everybody is perusing his/her own interest	9%
Corruption	19%
Weak government	25%
Weak economy	9%
Tribal problems	2%
Lack of shelter	0%
Lack of education	1%
Interference of foreign countries	1%
Refused	0%
Don't know	9%

Q-74. **(ASK ALL)** Now I will read a series of statements about democracy. For each statement, tell me if you agree or disagree. (**Read out statement, wait for response and then ask):** Strongly or somewhat?

	Strongly agree	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Strongly disagree	Refused (vol.)	DK (vol.)
a) Democracy may have its problems, but it is better than any other form of government.	35%	50%	8%	2%	1%	4%
b) Despite our differences, as Afghans we have many values that unite us.	50%	38%	9%	2%	0%	2%
c) Politicians seek power for their own benefit and don't worry about helping people.	45%	34%	14%	5%	0%	2%

Q-75. On the whole, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the way democracy works in Afghanistan. Are you …

Very satisfied	18%
Fairly Satisfied	55%
Not very satisfied	16%
Not at all satisfied	9%
Refused	1%
Don't know	2%

Q-76. Have you ever contacted your Member of Parliament (MP) for help in solving any of your personal or local problems?

Yes	8%
No	89%
Refused	1%
Don't know	2%

Q-77. **(Filtered. Ask if '1' in Q-76):** For what kind of a problem did you contact the MP? **(Open ended. Write down answer)**

Lack of water and electricity	26%
Problems related to trade	4%
Lack of roads and bridges	16%
Lack of security	10%
Lack of teachers at school	18%
Lack of hospitals	3%
Unemployment	3%
Problems at workplace	4%
Land dispute	6%
Lack of women rights	1%
Tribal problems	3%
Murder	0%
Refused	2%
Don't know	4%

Q-78. **(ASK ALL)** Now let's talk about Provincial Councils. Have you ever contacted a representative on the Provincial Council for help in solving any of your personal or local problems?

Yes	11%
No	87%
Refused	1%
Don't know	1%

Q-79. **(Filtered. Ask if '1' in Q-78)**: What kind of problem was it? **(Open ended. Write down answer)**

Problems related to electricity and water	22%
Lack of assistance to teachers	4%
Roads and bridges	15%
Land dispute	10%
Lack of reconstruction	4%
Bombardment by foreign troops	2%
Building schools	11%
Building clinics	7%
Transportation problems	1%
Security problems	11%
Unemployment	3%
Tribal problems	3%
Murder	1%
Agricultural problems	1%
Construction of mosque	1%
Corruption	2%
Refused	1%
Don't know	3%

Q-80. **(ASK ALL)** Now I will read some statements about our elected representatives. For each statement, tell me if you agree or disagree **(Read out state ment, wait for response and then ask)**: Strongly or somewhat?

	Strongly agree	Agree somewhat	Disagree somewhat	Strongly disagree	Refused (vol.)	DK (vol.)
a) The Parliament is addressing the major problems of people in our country	26%	49%	16%	8%	0	1%
b) My MP is addressing the major problems of my constituency in Parliament	23%	41%	23%	10%	0	3%

Q-81. Community Development Councils have been established as part of the National Solidarity Program and members of the Council are representatives of various groups in your community. Tell me, are you aware of such an institution formed in your neighborhood/settlement?

Yes, aware of CDC in the neighborhood/settlement	32%
No, not aware of CDC in the neighborhood/settlement	63%
Refused	1%
Don't know	5%

Q-82. (Filter. Ask if '1'in Q-81) Which of the following groups are members of the Community Development Council in your neighborhood/settlement? Ask for each and code

	Yes	No	Refused (vol.)	DK (vol.)
a) Local Malik / Khan	71%	27%	0%	2%
b) Elders of the local shura/jirga	78%	20%	0%	2%
c) Mullah	55%	43%	0%	2%
d) Local commanders	35%	60%	0%	4%
e) Women	30%	67%	0%	3%
f) Local teacher/doctor	51%	47%	0%	2%
g) Officials from municipal/district administration	27%	68%	0%	5%
h) Ordinary farmers	46%	51%	0%	2%
i) Landless agricultural workers	35%	62%	0%	3%
j) Shopkeepers	44%	53%	0%	3%

Q-83. **(Filtered. Ask if '1' in Q-81)** Which two major initiatives, projects in your neighborhood/settlement has this Council been tasked with to implement? **(Open ended. Write down up to 2 such big projects, initiatives)**

	Q-83a First mentioned	Q-83a&b All mentioned
Road construction	36%	50%
Drinking water supply	17%	30%
Electricity supply	9%	14%
School rehabilitation	9%	16%
Irrigation project (bringing water to farms)	4%	8%
Set up training programs on tailoring	0%	2%
Building mosque	2%	4%
Helping healthcare	3%	6%
Uniting people	1%	2%
Mine clearing	0%	0%
Improvement of women handicrafts	0%	1%
Establishing security	1%	1%
Stock-breeding	0%	0%
Rehabilitation of residential houses	0%	1%
Reconstruction of heating system	0%	0%
Micro-finances (for women)	0%	1%
Helping returnees	0%	0%
Disarmament process	0%	1%
Carpentry projects	0%	0%
Refused	1%	1%
Don't know	14%	14%

Q-84. **(Filtered. Ask if '1` in Q-81)** How satisfied are you with the job this Community Development Council is doing? Are you…

Very satisfied	33%
Somewhat satisfied	51%
Somewhat dissatisfied	9%
Very dissatisfied	4%
Refused	1%
Don't know	3%

Q-85. **(Filtered. Ask if '1` in Q-81)** Still speaking of the same Community Development Council, to what extent do you think this Council is capable to represent your interests before the Provincial authorities. Do you think that it is very capable, somewhat capable, not so capable or not capable at all to represent your interests before the Provincial authorities? **(Code in the first row below and ask)** And how capable is this Council to represent your interests before the Government of Afghanistan? **(Code in the second row below)**

	Very Capable	Somewhat capable	Not so much capable	Not capable at all	Refused (vol.)	DK (vol.)
a) Before Provincial authorities	31%	53%	11%	3%	0%	2%
b) Before the Government of Afghanistan	24%	43%	21%	9%	0%	3%

Q-86. **(ASK ALL)** Tell me, do you strongly agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or strongly disagree with the following statements about State Courts?

	Strongly agree	Some wath agree	Some what disagree	Strongly disagree	Refused (Vol.)	Dont know
a) State Courts are accessible to me.	25%	53%	14%	6%	0%	2%
b) State Courts are fair and trusted	15%	43%	29%	11%	0%	2%
c) State Courts are not corrupt compared to other options of settling a dispute (informal systems such as local jirgas & shuras)	14%	42%	29%	11%	1%	3%
d) State Courts follow the local norms and values of our people.	17%	40%	29%	11%	1%	3%
e) State Courts are effective at delivering justice.	19%	39%	28%	10%	1%	3%
f) State Courts resolve cases timely and promptly	17%	34%	29%	16%	0%	3%

Q-87. And now let's turn to village/neighborhood based Jirgas/ Shura, Tell me do you strongly agree, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or strongly disagree with the following statements about the village/neighborhood based Jirgas/ Shuras?

	Strongly agree	Some wath agree	Some what disagree	Strongly disagree	Refused	Dont know
a) Local jirgas, shuras are accessible to me.	38%	45%	10%	4%	1%	2%
b) Local jirgas, shuras are fair and trusted.	31%	47%	15%	3%	1%	3%
c) Local jirgas, shuras follow the local norms and values of our people.	32%	44%	16%	4%	1%	3%
d) Local jirgas, shuras are effective at delivering justice.	31%	45%	16%	4%	1%	3%
e) Local jirgas, shuras resolve cases timely and promptly	31%	41%	18%	6%	1%	3%

Q-88. In the past two years have you had a dispute or a formal case that you could n't settle with the other party and had to go to a State Court or village/neigh borhood based Shura/Jirga to resolve it?

Yes	14%
No	84%
Refused	1%
Don't know	1%

Q-89. **(Filtered. If answered 'Yes' to Q-88)** Where have you taken this case or dispute?

State Court	46%
Village, neighborhood based Shura/Jirga	43%
Both	10%
Other	1%
Refused	1%
Don't Know	1%

Q-90. **(Filtered. If answered 'State Court', code 1, or 'Both', code 6 to Q-89)** When taking or being a party in settling case in a State Court, have you used any professional legal services (from a lawyer) or you pleaded your case alone or helped by friends/relatives?

Professional legal services	35%
Alone/ helped by friends, relatives	52%
Both	13%
Don't Know	1%

Q-91. **(Filtered. Ask all with case or dispute in Q-88)** What kind of a case or dispute was it? **(If More Than One Case Or Dispute, Ask For The Most Recent One)**

Dispute over land	48%
Other property dispute, not land	14%
Commercial dispute	9%
Divorce	4%
Pick-pocketing	2%
Robbery / burglary	9%
Physical assault	10%
Murder	4%
Refused	0%
Don't Know	0%

Q-92. **(Filtered. Ask all with case or dispute in Q-88)** Were you satisfied with the outcome of the proceedings?

Yes	59%
No	23%
Not finished yet	16%
Refused	1%
Don't Know	1%

Q-93a.* (ASK ALL) Now let's talk specifically about women related issues. What is the biggest problem facing women in this area today? **(Code in the first col umn of the table below)**

Q-93b. And the next biggest? **(Code in the second column below)**

	Q-93a. First mentioned	Q-93a&b. All mentioned
Lack of rights / women's rights	13%	23%
Can't leave homes	5%	9%
Under control of men / men have power	3%	7%
Education / illiteracy	29%	48%
General health care	5%	10%
Pregnancy related health care	4%	7%
Forced marriages/ dowry	7%	14%
Domestic violence	7%	15%
Poverty	5%	10%
Security	2%	4%
Representation in Shura/ Jirga	0%	0%
Lack of job opportunities for women	9%	19%
Lack of professional courses	1%	2%
Lack of electricity and water	1%	1%
Suicide	0%	0%
Transportation Problems	0%	0%
Lack of Bakery for women	0%	0%
Murder of literate women	0%	0%
Lack of shelter	0%	0%
Presence of Taliban	0%	0%
Women have no problems	5%	5%
Refused	0%	0%
Don't know	3%	3%

Q-94. Some people say that women should have equal opportunities like men in education. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? **(Wait for response and then ask):** Strongly or somewhat?

Agree strongly	56%
Agree somewhat	33%
Disagree somewhat	7%
Disagree strongly	3%
Refused	0%
Don't know	0%

Q-95. Some people say that women should be allowed to work outside the home. What is your opinion about this?

Women should be allowed to work outside the home	70%
Women should not be allowed to work outside the home	28%
Refused	1%
Don't know	2%

Q-96.* The new constitution says men and women have equal rights, including the right to vote. What do you think about this statement? Do you agree or disagree? (Wait for response and then ask): Strongly or somewhat?

Agree strongly	53%
Agree somewhat	32%
Disagree somewhat	10%
Disagree strongly	3%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-97.* If women vote, do you think that women should decide for themselves or should they receive advice from men?

Women should decide for themselves	56%
Men should advise them	25%
Women should decide for themselves but in consultation with men	19%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-98.* In the election, everyone must vote for themselves. Men cannot vote in place of women. Women must vote for themselves. What do you think about this statement? Do you agree or disagree? **(Wait for response and then ask)**: Strongly or somewhat?

Agree strongly	59%
Agree somewhat	29%
Disagree somewhat	8%
Disagree strongly	3%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-99. Do you think that political leadership positions should be mostly for men, mostly for women, or do you think that both men and women should have equal representation in the political leadership?

Mostly for men	21%
Mostly for women	27%
Equal for both men and women	51%
Other	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-100. Would you prefer to be represented by a man or a woman in the Provincial Council?

A man	35%
A woman	17%
No difference	47%
Refused	0%
Don't know	1%

Q-101. Are you opposed to a woman representing you in the following organizations?

	Yes	No	Ref.	DK
a) In National Parliament	44%	55%	0	1%
b) In your Provincial Council	41%	58%	0	1%
c) In your Community Development Councils	40%	58%	0	1%
d) In your District Development Assembly	39%	59%	0	1%
e) In your local Shura or Jirga	42%	56%	0	1%

D-1. Gender

Male	50%
Female	50%

D-2. **(Ask All)** How old were you on your last birthday? **(Record actual age; if respondent refuses, please estimate)**

18-24 years.old.	29%
25-34 years.old.	28%
35-44 years.old.	21%
45-54 years.old.	13%
55-64 years.old.	6%
Over 65 years.old.	2%

D-3.* Are you now working, a housewife (ask only women) , retired, a student, or looking for work?

Working	43%
Retired	1%
Housewife	40%
Student	9%
Unemployed	7%
Other	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	0%

D-4.* **(Filtered. Ask if working or retired):** What is your main occupation? **(Write down and then code. If retired, ask for previous occupation and then code)**

Farmer (own land/tenant farmer)	31%
Farm laborer (other's land)	8%
Laborer, domestic, or unskilled worker	6%
Informal sales/business	12%
Skilled worker/artisan	11%
Government Office - Clerical worker	6%
Private Office - Clerical worker	2%
Government Office - Executive/Manager	2%
Private Office - Executive/Manager	1%
Self employed Professional	7%
Small business owner	3%
School Teacher	10%
University Teacher	0%
Military/Police	1%
Other	0%

D-5. **(Filtered. Ask if "Farmer", code '1' in D-4)** How much land do you farm?

Less than 1 Jerib	10%
1 - 2 Jerib	21%
2.1- 3 Jerib	26%
More than 3 Jerib	41%
Don't know (volunteered only)	1%

D-6. **(ASK ALL**) *What is the highest level of school you completed? **(Write-down response and code)**

Never went to school	53%
Primary School, incomplete (classes 1 to 5)	9%
Primary School, complete (finished class 6)	6%
Secondary education, incomplete (classes 7 to 8)	6%
Secondary education, complete (finished class 9)	5%
High School (classes 10 to 12)	16%
University education or above	3%
Refused (volunteered only)	0%
Don't know (volunteered only)	0%

D-7.* Which languages can you read? **(Multiple response. Code each mentioned)**

Pashto	31%
Dari	43%
Uzbek	2%
Turkmeni	1%
Urdu	3%
Hindi	0%
English	7%
Arabic	2%
Russian	0%
Other	0%
Cannot Read	48%

D-8.* What religion do you practice?

Islam - Sunni	87%
Islam - Shia	12%
Ismaeli	0%
Hindu	0%

D-9* Are you married or single?

Single	23%
Married	74%
Widower/ Widow	3%
Refused (volunteered only)	0%
Don't know (volunteered only)	0%

D-10.* Which ethnic group do you belong to? SINGLE RESPONSE ONLY

Pashtun	40%
Tajik	35%
Uzbek	8%
Hazara	10%
Turkmen	3%
Baloch	1%
Kirghiz	0%
Nuristani	1%
Aimak	1%
Arab	1%
Other	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	0%

D-11. **(Ask All)** How many people live here at this address? **(Record Number Below)**

1-5 pers.	12%
6-7 pers.	23%
8-9 pers.	26%
10-11 pers.	18%
12+ pers.	22%

D-13.* For statistical purposes only, we need to know your average monthly house hold income. Will you please tell me which of the following categories best represents your average total family monthly income? (**Show Card and read out)**

Less than 2,000 Afs	12%
2,001 - 3,000 Afs	27%
3,001 - 5,000 Afs	24%
5,001 - 10,000 Afs	22%
10,001 - 15,000 Afs	9%
15,001 - 20,000 Afs	3%
20,001 - 25,000 Afs	1%
25,001 - 40,000 Afs	0%
more then 40,000 Afs	0%
Refused	0%
Don't know	2%